US ruling a win for PCGG, a loss for Marcos victims

Story on PAGE A2

Firecracker zones eyed

PATI ITONG WATUSI?
SAAN KAMI?

By TJ Burgonio

AS AN antiterror move, PNP Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. wants to put up "firecracker zones" where holiday revelers can light fireworks and pyrotechnic devices this Christmas

FIRECRACKER/ A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Bus falls off bridge; 1 killed, 20 missing

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

ILAGAN, Isabela—A man was killed while 20 others were reported missing Monday afternoon when a strong current of the Siffu River swept a mini-bus passing through a detour bridge in Roxas town, an official said.

Roxas Mayor Benedict Calderon said

BUS/ A17

email: feedback@inquirer.com.ph
Tuesday, November 5, 2002 ★ 52 pages / 3 sections / vol. 17 / no. 330 P15
website: www.inq7.net

GMA leads terror fight

She wants Asean to expand scope of its concerted action

By Dona Pazzibugan

PHNOM PENH (via PLDT)—In an Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit dominated by terrorism concerns, President Macapagal-Arroyo has cut a high profile by calling for tougher and more creative counterterrorism measures.

The President yesterday called on other Asean leaders to "expand the scope of our concerted action and look at innovative approaches to defeat the terrorists."

Ms Macapagal announced that the Philippines would host a multilateral terrorist-response simulation game sometime in the next two months.

"The simulation is a practical activity in intensifying security cooperation," she said.

The Philippines is also set to host a regional conference on terrorism on Nov. 8 and 9. The chiefs of law enforcement, customs and immigration agencies from the Asean, the United States, Britain, Canada, Australia, Japan, China and South Korea are expected to participate.

The conference will be held back-to-back with a World Tourism Organization convention in Manila aimed at countering the adverse impact of the Bali bombing and alarmist travel advisories by some Western countries on Southeast Asia tourism. *(See related story.)*

Asean leaders, meeting for the first time since terrorist bombs killed at least 190 people in Bali, Indonesia, and 20 in the Philippines, started the summit yester-

GMA/ A17

8th ASEAN SUMMIT
4-5 November 2002
Phnom Penh, Cambodia

LEADERS of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations join hands for a group photo at the start of their summit in Phnom Penh on Monday. From left: Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong, Thai Prime Minister Thaksin Shinawatra, Vietnamese Prime Minister Phan Van Khai, Sultan of Brunei Hassanal Bolkiah, Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri, Laotian Prime Minister Bounhang Vorachith, Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad, Burmese Senior General Than Shwe and Philippine President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo. REUTERS

Asean to promote region as tourism destination

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan
in Cambodia
and TJ Burgonio
in Manila

PHNOM PENH (via PLDT)—President Macapagal-Arroyo and nine other leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations pledged to promote the region suffering a tourism slump as a result of perceived terrorist threats.

They signed a 10-page agreement declaring that they would work to promote Southeast Asia "as a single tourism destination with world-class standards, facilities and attractions" and to facilitate travel into and within the region, mainly by extending visa exemptions to Asean nationals.

The 10 leaders of the Philippines, Brunei, Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam resolved to boost travel within the region in the wake of warnings issued by some Western nations.

In a separate declaration, they condemned the negative advisories that, they said, were not based on evidence.

"We call on the international community to avoid indiscriminately advising their citizens to refrain from visiting or otherwise dealing with our countries in the absence of established evidence to substantiate rumors of possible terrorist attacks," they said.

Days earlier, Indonesian President Megawati Sukarnoputri told members of the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation summit in Mexico to lift travel warnings against her country, which depends on tourism for large amounts of revenue.

The Asean leaders also pledged to cut restrictions on trade in tourism and travel services; foster cooperation among the tourism industries; integrate tourism and travel services; and assist one another to upgrade tourism and travel facilities.

To promote travel into and within the region, they agreed to harmonize visa procedures for

ASEAN/ A17

China, Asean sign accord creating free trade area

PHNOM PENH—Leaders of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China signed a landmark agreement here Monday leading to the world's biggest free trade area embracing 1.7 billion people and trade worth $1.2 trillion.

The agreement, providing the framework on Asean-China economic cooperation, will be implemented within about 10 years and will create a trade area with an economy worth almost $2 trillion. It was signed at noon on the first day of the Asean summit at the Intercontinental Hotel.

According to a draft of the pact obtained by Agence France Presse before the summit, tariff cuts on selected farm products under an "early harvest package" will start as early as next year.

Products covered under the early harvest package include live animals, meat, fish, dairy produce, other animal products, live trees, vegetables, fruit and nuts.

Under the framework, negotiations will start next year for a full free trade area covering goods, services and investments.

Philippine Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas II said the framework gave Asean nations a headstart over China.

"It will have something called an 'early harvest' where Asean nations will be able to benefit earlier than China during the interim period. This means we'll have greater market access to China ahead of its having similar access to us. We want to have this as soon as possible," he said.

Roxas said the Philippines and other Asean nations would still separately negotiate with China for their trade and tariff agreements. The framework, however, provides the outline for future agreements so no Asean nation will get less or more trade bene-

CHINA/ A4

Spratly pact hailed as RP success

By Dona Pazzibugan

PHNOM PENH—The 10-member Association of Southeast Asian Nations and China yesterday formally agreed on a code of conduct aimed at preventing armed conflict over disputed areas of the South China Sea, a landmark accord hailed at the Asean summit as a "Philippine success."

Philippine Foreign Secretary Blas F. Ople and his counterparts from Asean and China signed the "Declaration on the Conduct of Parties in the South China Sea," as President Macapagal-Arroyo and other regional leaders looked on.

The accord enjoins all claimants from further occupying and undertaking activities in the disputed but largely inhabited chain of islets straddling busy sea lanes and reportedly containing vast oil, mineral and marine resources.

The signatories are also

SPRATLY/ A6

THAT'S THE SPIRIT
This early, Camp Crame, headquarters of the Philippine National Police, is already aglow with Christmas lanterns and lighted flowers. Can caroling be far behind? VAL HANDUMON

Perez protests EU plan to tag RP terror haven

By Michael Lim Ubac

JUSTICE Secretary Hernando Perez yesterday branded as "unfair" the reported plan of the European Union to tag the country a terrorist haven.

Perez told reporters the possible blacklisting of the Philippines, along with Indonesia, Pakistan and Afghanistan, was uncalled for because the Macapagal administration had instituted an antiterror drive tougher than those launched by European nations.

"It is very unfair to tag the Philippines as a haven for terrorists," he said.

Perez issued the comment in reaction to INQUIRER editorial consultant Amando Doronila's front-page analysis yesterday, which pointed to the strong possibility that the European Union would blacklist the country.

He said the accusation that the country was harboring terrorist groups like the al-Qaida network was a big lie.

"That is not true (as evidenced by

PEREZ/ A17

Review of past amnesty plans urged

By Norman Bordadora,
Carlito Pablo
and Delfin T. Mallari Jr.

THE GOVERNMENT must pursue peace negotiations with and amnesty for communist rebels even if their leaders reject the planned program, Vice President Teofisto Guingona Jr. said yesterday.

But Guingona, who had earlier criticized the Macapagal administration's use of international pressure to force the insurgents to lay down their arms, warned against a "cosmetic" amnesty program that would project a good image for Malacañang rather than bring about genuine social justice in the countryside.

He called for a review of the government's past amnesty programs to make sure that the one now being finalized would work.

"Of the past amnesty programs, how many have succeeded?" Guingona told the INQUIRER, adding:

"(The review) should be done as a form of confidence building. The government should make sure that it

REVIEW/ A4

WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Luzon and Visayas will experience cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and thunderstorms. The rest of the country will have partly cloudy to cloudy skies with isolated rainshowers and thunderstorms.

SOURCE: PAGASA

COMPILED BY: RAY LEYESA, PDI RESEARCH/11/05/02

Second FRONTPAGE

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains
Baguio	Cloudy with Rains	Roxas	Cloudy with Rains
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Cebu	Cloudy with Rains
Laoag	Cloudy with Rains	Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains
Clark Zone	Cloudy with Rains	Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy
Calapan	Cloudy with Rains	Davao	Partly Cloudy

Kidnap suspect slain in Pampanga gunfight with policemen

AN ALLEGED member of a kidnap-for-ransom gang was killed yesterday in a gunfight with agents of the Police Anti-Crime and Emergency Response (Pacer) and Intelligence Group at the North Luzon Expressway in Pampanga.

The suspect, identified only as Ramil, was killed after he shot it out with the agents near a car dealer's shop along the McArthur Highway near the Dau exit in Mabalacat around noon, police said.

"This is a good accomplishment for the Philippine National Police and part of the government's campaign against kidnap-for-ransom groups," Lina said in Angeles City after learning of the suspect's killing.

So, wife of a Chinese-Filipino businessman in Rosales, Pangasinan, was abducted on Sept. 14 but was released by her abductors in Victoria, Tarlac, on Oct. 29.

Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., PNP chief, said the Pacer operation here was part of a follow-up operation on the So kidnapping case.

He said the suspect was traced to this town after the vehicle used in So's kidnapping was monitored by intelligence operatives to be frequenting an area near the Dau Telecom building in Angeles City.

Ebdane said police intelligence information showed that the suspect's group was planning to abduct someone in Angeles. He did not identify the prospective victim.

The suspect "sensed (that) he was being tailed by some agents, so (he) pulled his gun and fired at them. The agents had no choice but to return fire," said a Pacer official, who spoke on condition that he not be identified.

Seized from the slain suspect was a .45 cal. pistol.

The suspect and other members of the crime group, known as Bucala gang, had been under close surveillance since they released So after the payment of ransom, the official said.

Police could not say if the other members of the gang were in the area during the gunfight. But in a statement, police said they were now tracking down the other suspects.

"Once again, the victim's cooperation and the community reporting of suspicious characters helped the police track down the suspect," said Ebdane.

In August, police and military agents rounded up seven alleged members of the Bucala gang in Dasmariñas, Cavite.

Police said of all the kidnapping gangs operating in the country, the Bucala gang and the Fajardo group were the most notorious. *TJ Burgonio and Jun Malig, PDI Central Luzon Desk*

Big win for RP gov't, big loss for Marcos victims

By Donna S. Cueto

IT WAS a big win for the Philippine government, but possibly a loss for the case of the 10,000 martial law human rights victims who want to get hold of the contested $35 million Arelma accounts.

The Presidential Commission on Good Government has won its appeal before the United States Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals to reverse an earlier ruling of the Hawaii District Court that prevented the government from laying claim to the frozen Marcos funds held by Merrill Lynch in New York.

The money, collectively known as the Arelma assets of the Marcoses, was first deposited by the late President Ferdinand Marcos in an account with Merrill Lynch in 1972. At that time, it was estimated to be only $2 million. In 2000, upon discovery of the secret Marcos account by the PCGG, the funds had already grown to $35 million. It is now estimated at $30 million because of depreciation in investments after the Sept. 11, 2001 terrorist attacks in the United States.

In July 2000, the PCGG asked Merrill Lynch to turn over the Arelma assets. It proposed that the Philippine National Bank act as an escrow agent and hold the assets pending a ruling in the Sandiganbayan on whether the assets belonged to the government or to the Marcos Estate.

But Merrill Lynch denied the request because of the existence of the other claimants, including the human rights victims and the Golden Buddha Corp., and filed an interpleader action with the US District Court in Hawaii under Judge Manuel Real.

The human rights victims had been trying to get hold of the funds but the PCGG said they belonged to the Philippine government.

The government then sought to dismiss the inter-pleader action. It claimed it had prior claim over the funds and that Real's court had no jurisdiction over them.

The Hawaii court ruled that the PCGG and the Philippine government were not parties to the litigation.

Real, in his order on Dec. 20, 2001, had said that PNB and Arelma were the "real parties in interest."

But the US appeals court, in its decision dated Oct. 31, 2002, reversed Real's order.

"We agree with the Republic that the district court should have addressed the merits of the immunity question first to preserve the immunity that may be determined to exist," the appeals court said.

5 Indonesians suspected of smuggling nabbed

COTABATO CITY—Five Indonesians suspected to be engaged in smuggling were arrested in Maasim, Sarangani, on Sunday.

The Indonesians were apparently smuggling crude oil, kerosene and floor tiles, authorities said.

Maj. Julieto Ando, spokesperson of the Army's 6th Infantry Division, identified the arrested suspects as Lasti Mahalin Amka, 35, Abram Mandares, 18, and Pido Mandares, 19, all residents of Peita, Tahoma, Indonesia; Nasser Masang, 23, of Betung, Indonesia; and Dureying Duremalang, 20, of Manado City.

They were arrested off the coast of Sitio Tinago, Poblacion Maasim, at 9:30 a.m.

Quoting reports from the Army's 601st brigade, Ando said the five failed to present passports and permits to travel to the Philippines.

Authorities seized from them their cargo vessel, 30 containers of crude oil, four containers of kerosene and several boxes of floor tiles.

They are now detained at the Sarangani police provincial office.

The Philippines has been on heightened alert following a spate of deadly bomb attacks blamed on local terrorists this month.

Two Indonesian men believed to be top operatives of the regional Islamic militant group Jemaah Islamiah (JI) have been convicted in the Philippines and are serving jail terms for illegal possession of explosives.

Agus Dwikarna and Fathur Rohman al-Ghozie have also been linked to the Dec. 30, 2000 bombing attacks in Metro Manila that killed over a dozen people and injured scores of others.

The JI was also suspected of involvement in the Oct. 12 bomb attacks in Bali, Indonesia, which killed over 180 people. *Edwin O. Fernandez, PDI Mindanao Bureau and AFP*

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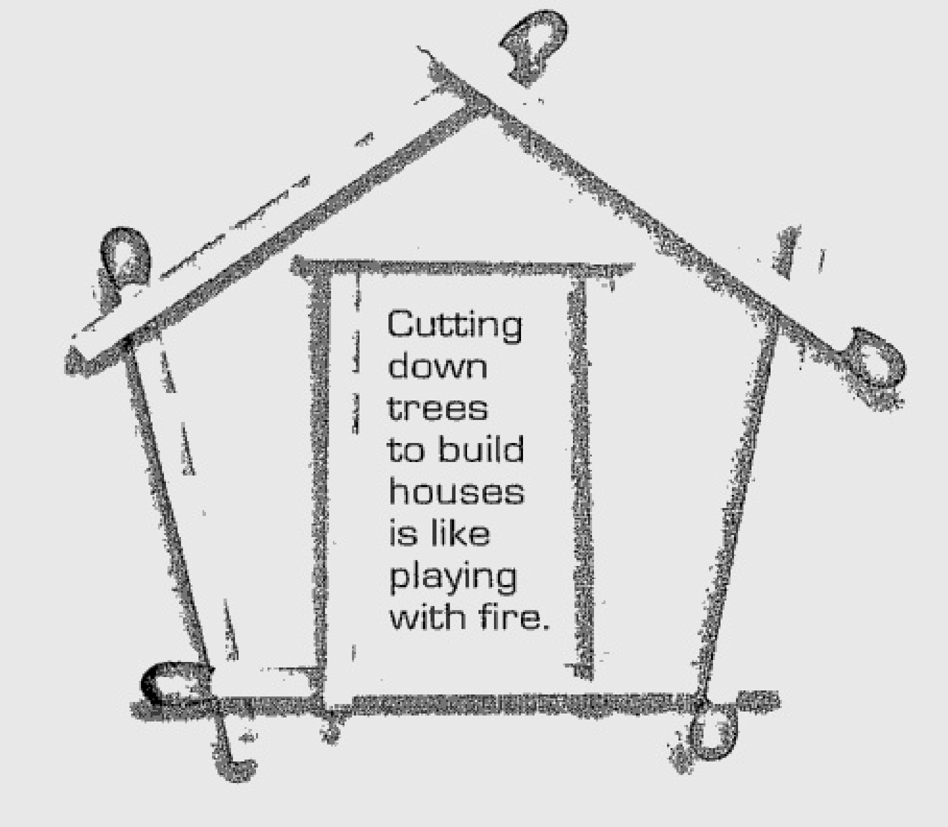
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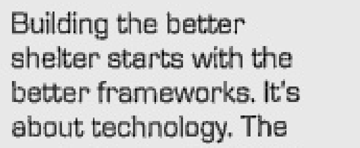

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Ople sees NPA revenge in Bulacan

By Norman Bordadora

FOREIGN Affairs Secretary Blas Ople said he expects communist rebels to target his home province, Bulacan, in retaliation for what he said was his successful mission to have communist leader Jose Ma. Sison and the New People's Army declared as terrorists by the European Union.

Ople personally asked Gen. Benjamin Defensor, Armed Forces chief of staff, to prevent attacks on several towns that Ople said were most vulnerable.

These include Hagonoy town of which Ople's son, Felix, is the mayor.

"If any town of Bulacan is attacked, we will make sure that the communists... pay dearly," Ople said in a statement from abroad.

Ople on Sunday asked Defensor to protect the towns of Bulacan along the coast of Manila Bay.

He met Defensor in Singapore during a regional conference of military chiefs of staff from the Asia Pacific.

"The towns vulnerable to CPP-NPA terror attacks are those along the coastline... The town of San Rafael in recent weeks have borne the brunt of NPA terror attacks," Ople said.

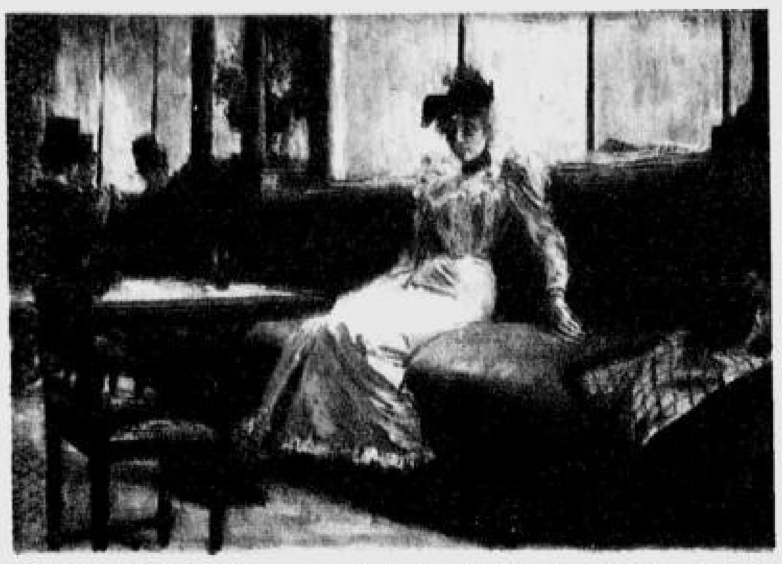
Ople said among the vulnerable are Calumpit, Malolos, Paombong, Bocaue and Meycauayan.

Ople headed a government mission whose mission was to ask European countries to include the CPP-NPA in the European Council's list of terrorist organizations.

Also in the mission were presidential advisers Norberto Gonzales and Eduardo Ermita.

The EU on Oct. 28 declared Sison and the NPA as terrorists.

Expecting reprisals from the communist rebels, Ople alerted the PNP and the Department of Foreign Affairs' security detail to take the necessary measures to protect the department.



'PARISIAN Life,' a 110-year-old painting that has drawn a nation's attention.

PHOTO COURTESY OF CHRISTIE'S

GSIS purchase of Luna continues to draw flak

By Juliet L. Javellana

THE GOVERNMENT Service Insurance System continued to draw flak for buying at a Hong Kong auction a painting by Juan Luna, with several congressmen saying there was more to the sale of the painting than meets the eye.

A resolution seeking an investigation of the purchase said the GSIS violated its own charter when it bought the 110-year-old painting for P46 million.

Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes, the resolution's author, said paintings are "not among the productive investments" that the GSIS is allowed to pour money into.

Another congressman, Prospero Nograles, demanded the ouster of Winston Garcia, the GSIS president.

"If Garcia does not know the meaning of delicadeza and decides to cling on to his position, President Arroyo should make the move and fire him at once," said Nograles in Davao City.

He said while the GSIS drags its feet in releasing the benefits of its members, "it only takes a few days for the GSIS to come out with more than P50 million just to buy a piece of painting."

In his resolution, Reyes said the claim by Garcia that the P46 million came from the GSIS' property insurance ventures was hogwash.

Reyes said all assets of the GSIS originate from members' contributions.

"Everything is a fruit of these contributions," Reyes said in an interview.

Aside from Reyes, who is a member of the administration party Lakas, the House minority is also demanding an investigation.

In a statement, minority leader Carlos Padilla and his deputy, Rolex Suplico, said the deal "reeks with anomaly."

The two opposition leaders said the "highly questionable circumstances" that began with the illegal export of the painting and the swift granting of an export permit to its auction by Christie's, might "unravel a conspiracy to cheat millions of GSIS members."

They said the GSIS and National Museum should be investigated for the "intriguing circumstances" that surrounded the painting's ending up in Hong Kong.

Padilla said the National Museum should explain the "undue haste" with which it issued an export permit for the painting which paved the way for its auction.

The painting was taken out of the country after its owner, Ramon Nakpil II, and the freight forwarders he hired declared that it was "for exhibition."

When the planned auction became public, the National Museum asked Christie's to return the painting so that it can be issued export permits.

Cecilio Salcedo, museum deputy director, himself went to the airport when the painting arrived on a Friday evening and issued the permit on the spot.

"In just a matter of two hours, all the papers were made available to allow the painting to be brought back to Hong Kong," Padilla said.

"To think that it was a Friday evening where almost all government transactions are suspended until Monday the following week, it is very strange that the National Museum and customs officials even had to rush to the airport to process all the necessary documents on the spot. Not all people in this country are accorded that kind of special treatment," Padilla said.

Padilla said it would have been more prudent for the National Museum to have waited and investigated first.

Salcedo had justified the museum's prompt issuance of an export permit, saying the painting is not listed as a national cultural treasure or an important cultural property.

No Ombudsman case, says Braganza lawyer

AGRARIAN Reform Secretary Hernani Braganza is not facing any suit before the Office of the Ombudsman.

Braganza lawyer Facundo O. Palafox V in a statement debunked reports that a graft or criminal case was filed against Braganza before Ombudsman Simeon Marcelo.

"What case is now at the Ombudsman? What are they (Darea officers) talking about?" he asked.

He said that union officers only submitted a request letter and a joint-affidavit, and not a complaint sheet.

Darea leaders in their letter requested the Office of the Ombudsman to create a fact-finding team to look into allegations that Braganza mismanaged the DAR and spent P53 million for CARP anniversary rites.

Palafox said Braganza's accusers face perjury charges if they failed to substantiate their charges against the DAR chief.

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- TEAM DEVELOPMENT FOR MANAGERS AND SUPERVISORS
  November 23 - December 14, 2002 Saturday 1:00PM-5:00PM
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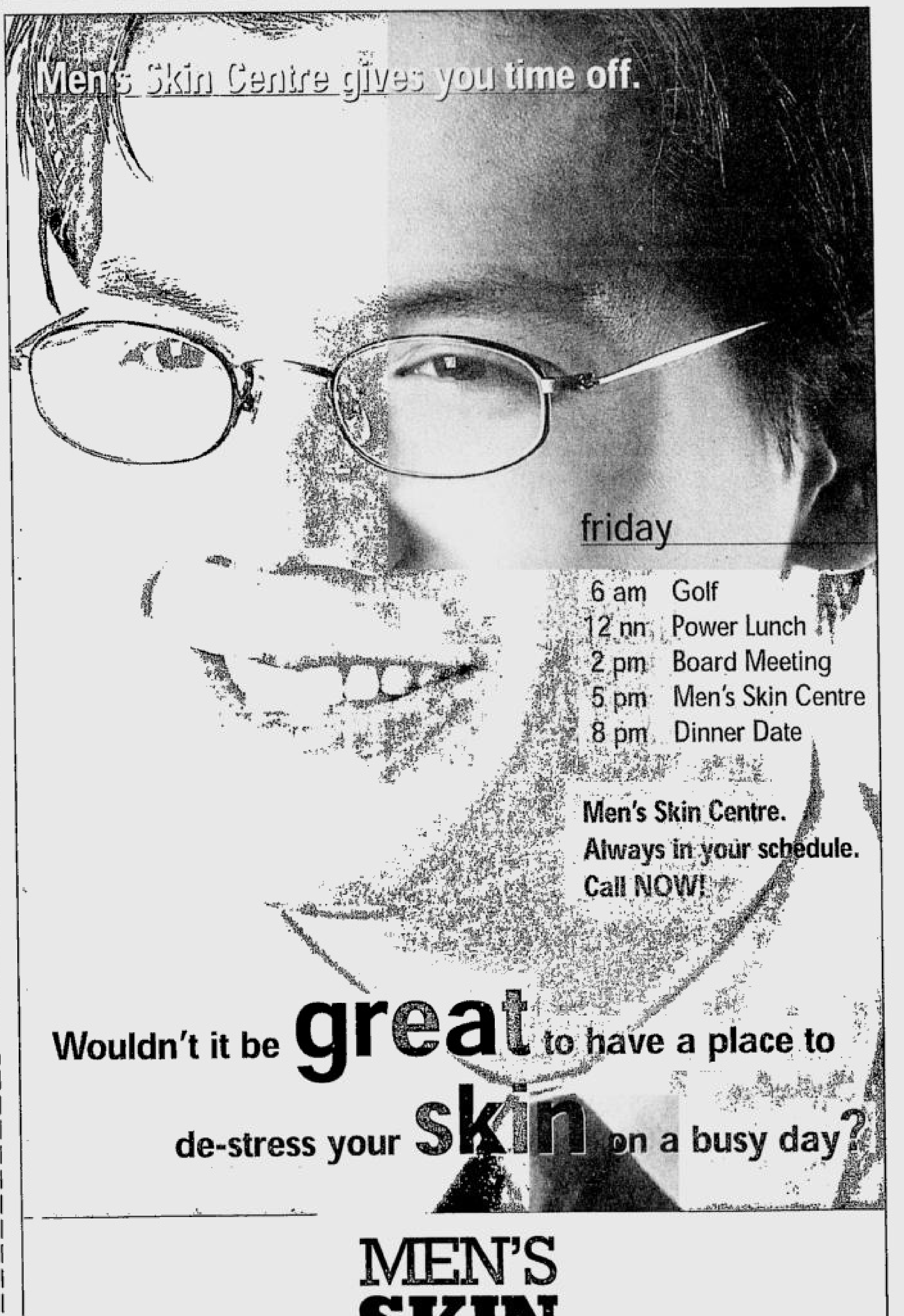

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Review of previous amnesty programs urged

From page A1

would not make the same mistakes."

Guingona also said the government should continue the peace talks "whether on the sidelines or through back channels."

Secretary Eduardo Ermita, President Macapagal-Arroyo's adviser on the peace process, said a draft of the proposed program had been submitted to Malacañang by the National Amnesty Commission led by Alfredo Tadiar, and that it was being studied by chief legal counsel Avelino Cruz.

Silvestre Bello III, head of the government's peace panel, said negotiations with the communist-led National Democratic Front could be done alongside the proposed grant of amnesty to the insurgents.

"Rebels who now want to avail themselves of the amnesty can do so," he said. "On the other hand, we will continue with the negotiations so we can come up with a final peace settlement."

Bello said the amnesty program would "give a chance to our brothers who went to the mountains and fought the government to have a new life and come back to mainstream society."

But communist leaders based here and abroad flatly rejected the planned amnesty.

In a statement, Communist Party of the Philippines spokesperson Gregorio Rosal described Malacañang's overtures as "psywar" and said the CPP, its armed wing the New People's Army, and the NDF would "never surrender the armed revolution of the masses."

"The NPA is continuing to gather strength in its ability to continue the armed struggle and score victories against the government and its military," he added.

NDF chief political consultant Jose Ma. Sison said: "Since the time of (the late dictator Ferdinand) Marcos, so-called amnesty and rehabilitation programs have been a racket of the ruling politicians and the military, who make long lists of ghost surrenderers and pocket the money for themselves."

"None of these amnesty programs has ever succeeded in destroying the resolve of the leadership and the rank and file of the revolutionary movement to continue with the armed revolution to bring about fundamental change in Philippine society," said NDF spokesperson Fidel Agcaoili, who, like Sison and NDF chief peace negotiator Luis Jalandoni, is based in Utrecht, the Netherlands.

Not just land

But Guingona pointed out that the rejection of the amnesty program should not stop the government from pursuing the peace talks and granting amnesty to the rebels.

He noted that amnesty could mean a new lease on life for those who were forced to the mountains because of hunger. "They don't just need land," he said. "They need genuine livelihood."

Bello said the blacklisting of Philippine communist rebels by a number of foreign governments did not pose a hindrance to their being granted amnesty.

He said that while the government supported the blacklisting, "it is just in solidarity with other countries in the fight against terrorism."

"The problem of insurgency is our internal problem, and we have to address this," he added.

Agence France Presse cited records showing that the government had granted amnesty to 10,685 communist guerrillas in over a decade.

Ms Macapagal's spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao announced Sunday that the administration was preparing a "more attractive" amnesty program. He claimed that except for some "stragglers," the rebels now wanted to return to mainstream society but did not know how to go about it.

But Agcaoili said in an e-mailed statement: "Tiglao desperately needs to rationalize to himself his betrayal of principles. So for him, his erstwhile friends who still view Philippine society as exploitative and oppressive, as more than 67 percent of Filipinos living below the poverty level can attest to, are 'stragglers.'

"After 2004 when (Ms Macapagal) shall no longer be in power, Tiglao will end up like those former members of the NDF who stuck with (Joseph Estrada) until his overthrow."

Agcaoili also said past amnesty programs had been occasions for "wholesale corruption in the reactionary bureaucracy and armed forces."

"The powers-that-be never learn their lessons," he said. "But why should they? The amnesty program means more money in their pockets. And that's how this planned program of the Macapagal-Arroyo regime will go."

According to Agcaoili, the time for ending the armed struggle is "when basic social, economic and political reforms in Philippine society shall have been carried out," and "not sooner."

'Rehash'

Retired Brig. Gen. Eduardo Purificacion, spokesperson for the Armed Forces, said it would step up the war against the NPA alongside the implementation of the amnesty program.

"If they refuse to accept amnesty ... it is incumbent upon the government, particularly the AFP, to intensify the operations against them," Purificacion said. "The government, and not the NPA, should dictate the terms."

But Rafael Baylosis, now a resource person for socioeconomic reforms of the NDF peace panel, said the offer of amnesty was aimed only at trapping the revolutionary forces into surrendering.

"The government's offer is nothing but a desperate rehash of failed amnesty programs and anti-insurgency campaigns launched by (the Marcos and Aquino administrations)," he said, adding:

"This carrot-and-stick strategy of the US-Macapagal regime aims to draw the entire armed revolutionary movement into capitulation without even putting forward substantial social, economic and political reforms."

Bayan Muna Rep. Crispin Beltran said the administration's attempts to convince the insurgents to give up the struggle would fail because it was not offering a genuine alternative.

"It's highly doubtful that tried-and-tested revolutionaries will give up the struggle for national liberation on the say-so of the likes of Tiglao," Beltran said. "Tiglao has the misplaced confidence and even arrogance to say that he knows what it is like to be part of the revolutionary struggle. But all that he has learned, he has thrown out the window."

Beltran also said the biggest recruiter to the revolutionary cause was the government itself.

"There can be no peace without justice, and peace can only be achieved if there is no exploitation," he said. "The government will never be able to convince members of the revolutionary movement to give up the struggle because the alternative is to embrace the misery and hopelessness of the current setup." *With reports from Gerald G. Lacuarta and Martin P. Marfil*

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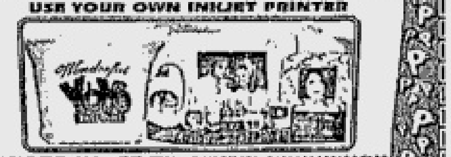

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China, Asean sign accord creating free trade area

From page A1

fits than the others, he said.

Roxas said that the free trade area was envisioned in about 10 years' time "with some flexibilities" for some Asean countries like ours.

Asean officials earlier said there had been some disagreement over the timing of the implementation of the agreement. However, they said 2010 had now been set for China and the six original Asean states—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—and 2015 for the less developed Asean members of Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Vietnam.

According to officials, Philippine President Macapagal-Arroyo told the Asean leaders during the summit there should be flexibility among the six original member nations in implementing the 2010 deadline because they had different levels of economic development.

She called for special and preferential tariff treatment among the six countries, saying certain products may not be ready to be included in the deal by 2010.

Closer ties

China, which is holding meetings with Asean nations during parallel talks at the two-day summit, is steadily forging closer ties with Southeast Asia.

Chinese officials announced over the weekend China would give preferential tariff treatment to three of the poorest Southeast Asian nations—Cambodia, Laos and Burma.

China also wrote off Cambodia's debt, which is believed to be worth more than $200 million.

Analysts said the free trade agreement would provide an avenue for Asean to engage its giant neighbor as an economic partner rather than a competitor.

"It means we have freer access to the huge domestic market of China," National University of Singapore economics professor Jose Tongzon told the AFP before the summit.

"This is where Asean should explore the possible areas where we can benefit from China's free market."

The trade deal is just one area where the world's most populous nation is bringing its power to the forefront in this region, leaving many worried about how much clout Beijing ultimately will end up with.

Criticisms

Critics say development money handed out by Beijing is impossible to account for, and its projects on the Mekong River that flows through five nations after leaving China could bring profound and sometimes unwanted changes to the environment.

They may not like it, but the Asean nations, many of them still developing, find themselves tagging along behind giant China in what they hope won't turn out to be a harmful undertow.

Many are reluctant to say so publicly, however.

Despite widespread concerns about Chinese dams in the Mekong River, which will affect flows to Cambodia, Vietnam, Laos, Thailand and Burma, there was apparently no criticism leveled at Beijing during a meeting on Sunday of the six members of the Greater Mekong Subregion grouping.

"We are fully conscious that China is a superpower," a senior official with Cambodia's Ministry of the Environment said afterward. "Maintaining economic ties with it is very important for Cambodia in the future."

China is a big donor to Cambodia. It provides water wells in the countryside and previously built a major annex to the National Assembly compound. Traffic lights around Phnom Penh were funded by Beijing, and Cambodia's King Sihanouk flies to China for regular medical checkups while maintaining a palace there, all provided at no charge.

These may sound like good freebies, but social activists wonder what the payback will someday be, and they are blunt in their criticisms that China keeps silent about where all its money goes as it builds increasingly greater influence.

"Everyone is afraid to stand up to China in this region," added Aviva Imhof, of the US-based International Rivers Network, on the sidelines of the Asean summit that wraps up here on Tuesday.

International lenders like the World Bank might be viewed as evil institutions by the enemies of economic globalization, but at least there is more accountability about where the money goes, activists say.

Japan move

With China and the 10 Asean members set to sign the deal outlining a timetable for a free trade zone to be set up over the next decade, Japan is trying to provide a counterbalance with its own free trade package or packages.

China can produce most things more cheaply than rivals in Southeast Asia, and while they fear the loss of investment money, they are hoping that the free trade deal will at least open Chinese markets to whatever goods they can be competitive with.

Tokyo appears to have acted in response to Beijing, and Japanese officials acknowledge that if they can't strike a deal with Asean as a whole, they will seek one with the developed nations in Southeast Asia.

"China is seen as frightening figure," said Yutaka Aoki, a senior official at the Japanese Embassy here.

"China's economy has been booming, and its population of 1.3 billion makes a huge market, compared to some 500 million for all of Asean combined," Aoki said. "Asean members fear that China may take away foreign investment, and they see China as a major competitor rather than a partner."

Asean Secretary General Rodolfo Severino acknowledged Monday that Southeast Asia found itself "at the crucial crossroads."

Noting China's huge advantages, an Asean study said the region's "small, fragmented markets were not attractive to investors compared to the large Chinese market and more integrated regions elsewhere in the world." *Reports from Dona Pazzibugan, AFP and AP*

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Erap lawyers say even 'martyrs' need money

By Volt Contreras

THEY consider themselves "martyrs" for rendering free legal services for deposed President Joseph Estrada during the last seven months.

But with the rising cost of photocopying services, gasoline and other related expenses, who could blame Estrada's four counsels de officio for asking whether they can now collect the meager compensation set for them by law?

Prospero Crescini, speaking for the entire defense panel, yesterday asked the Sandiganbayan "how we can collect" the P500-per-appearance fee that counsels de officio are entitled to under Sec. 32 of the Rules of Court.

He said that since yesterday was the 60th hearing they had attended since they were assigned to the Estrada cases in March, each of the lawyers who were appointed by the court is entitled to at least P30,000.

But Justice Minita Nazario, Sandiganbayan Special Division chair and concurrent acting presiding justice, was hardly reassuring when she told Crescini: "We will see what we can do."

The release of such amounts would still be "subject to the availability of funds," Nazario said, adding that even Sandiganbayan personnel did not get any salary increase under this year's budget.

Estrada's other court-appointed lawyers are retired Sandiganbayan chief Manuel Pamaran, Noel Malaya and Irene Jurado.

They were ordered to handle the cases after Estrada, accusing the justice system of being biased against his family, fired his nine private lawyers on Feb. 27.

Crescini and company maintained that they have not received a single peso from Estrada nor have they gained his cooperation since taking over his criminal cases.

Outside the courtroom, Crescini turned coy when asked by reporters about his financial query, saying that he and fellow counsels are actually not pursuing the matter that seriously.

'Larger picture'

"We prefer to see the larger picture. As members of the Bar we have the duty to prove to an accused who does not believe in our courts that the country's justice system really works," he said.

Asked how much losses he had incurred since accepting the Estrada cases for free, Crescini said his appearance fee alone for Metro Manila is P5,000 per hearing.

He said he had actually written the office of the Clerk of Court about the matter but the office responded that it did not know how to go about it.

Irene Jurado said she was wondering whether their fees could be released before Christmas.

"We have virtually become martyrs," she said, adding that the lawyers are using their own money to photocopy pleadings and other legal documents which now run into thousands of pages.

"But we have a duty as counsels de officio. Being appointed here is also a recognition of our competence as lawyers," she told reporters.

Estrada is facing plunder and other charges for allegedly accepting hundreds of millions of pesos in protection money from illegal gambling syndicates and opening bank accounts containing hundreds of millions of pesos using a fictitious name.

Estrada, his son Jinggoy and wife Sen. Loi Ejercito had been accused of amassing ill-gotten wealth, which they denied.

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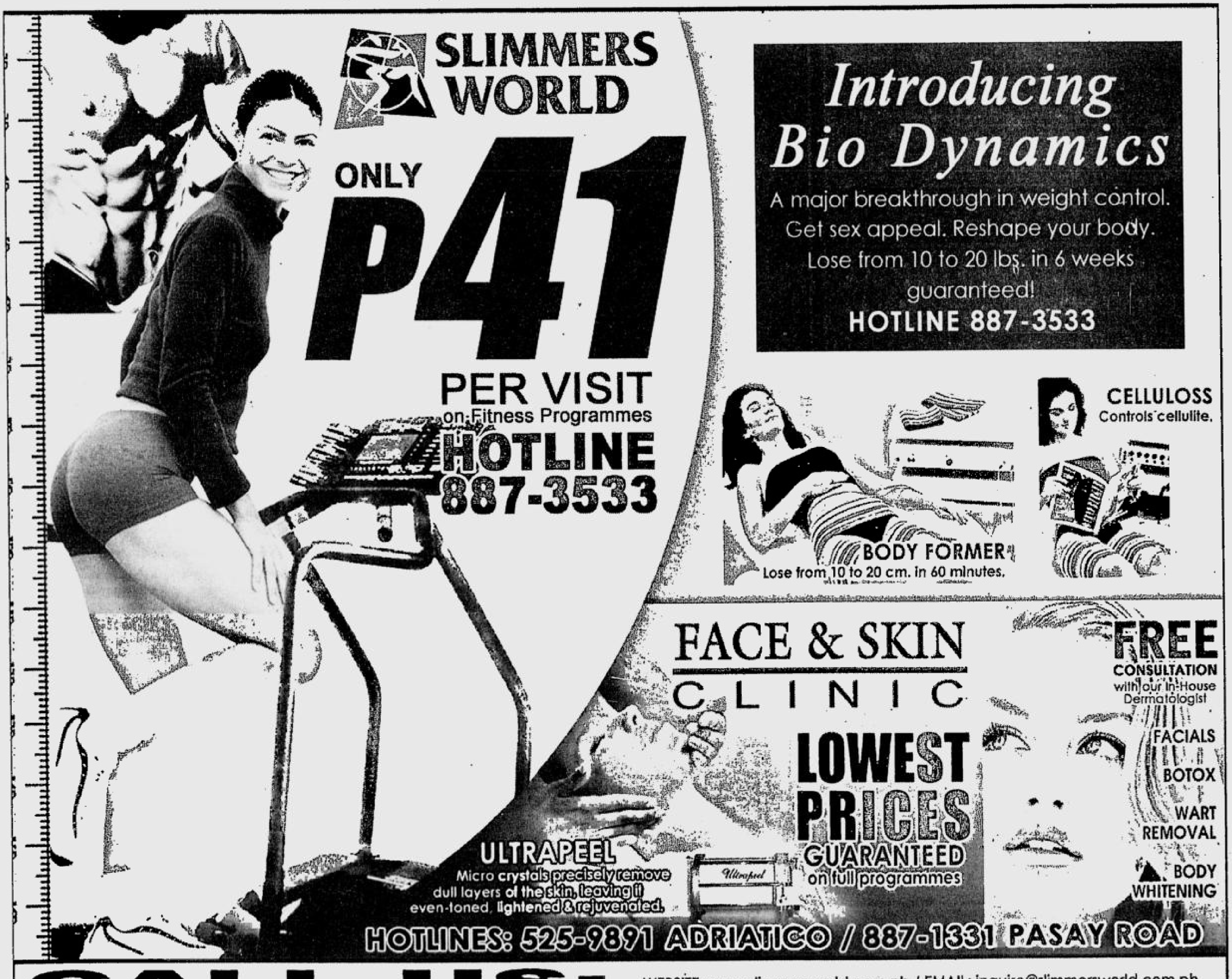

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Spratly pact hailed as RP success

From page A1

obliged to help anyone in distress in the contested area, exchange views with one another on defense issues, and give advance warning of military exercises.

"It's essentially and substantially a Philippine draft," said Philippine Undersecretary Lauro Baja who played a major role in working for the adoption of the agreement through difficult negotiations over the past three years.

"It's considered by the international community a Philippine initiative . . . It's a Philippine success," Baja added.

Ms Macapagal acknowledged Baja's efforts in pushing for the adoption of the code of conduct despite China's resistance. "Larry, I know you've been working hard for this the past three years," she told the foreign undersecretary.

Although watered down, the agreement was still considered important by the international community because it ensured freedom of navigation in the South China Sea, Asean diplomats said.

"The developed nations, in particular, are maritime powers and it was to their interest that the agreement upheld freedom of navigation," Baja said.

Other Asean diplomats also explained even though the agreement was non-binding, this hardly diminished the value of the declaration.

"If a country violates a non-binding agreement, not many countries will respect it in the future," said Tej Bunnag, a senior Thai foreign ministry official involved in crafting the accord. "That's the moral weight of customary, international relations."

Asean and Chinese officials agreed on the draft of the declaration on Friday night after making key compromises, including the removal of any reference to its geographical scope.

China, in particular, had opposed references to three disputed areas, while Vietnam and other Asean countries had insisted on their inclusion.

The contested areas cover the Spratly Islands that are claimed in whole or in part by the Philippines, Vietnam, Malaysia, Brunei, China and Taiwan. Also disputed are the Scarborough Shoal, claimed by China and the Philippines, and the Paracel Islands, claimed by China and Vietnam.

Baja said China finally agreed to a code of conduct in the South China Sea to foster trade and diplomatic relations with her Southeast Asian neighbors. Military skirmishes have flared up out in the area the past two decades, undermining security and escalating tension in the region.

Time was ripe

"The time was ripe," Baja told the INQUIRER. "If it weren't signed now, it would have taken another decade."

The Philippines initiated the adoption of a code of conduct after a military standoff with China in 1998 over Mischief Reef, which is part of the Spartlys Islands.

Under the leadership of then Foreign Secretary Domingo Siazon, who is now ambassador to Japan, the Philippines succeeded in getting Asean's commitment to push for such a code at the sixth Asean summit in Hanoi that same year.

At the Asean summit in Manila the following year, the first working draft of a code of conduct was prepared for China's consideration.

The Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Vietnam agreed on the wording of the declaration on Oct. 11. The remaining six Asean members—Burma, Cambodia, Indonesia, Laos, Singapore and Thailand—approved the draft on Oct. 31.

After a series of negotiations with Asean officials, Beijing gave its approval on Nov. 1.

With a report from AP

Firecracker . . .

From page A1

season.

"We'll have better control of explosions and injuries will be minimized during the Yuletide merriment. We don't want terrorists to take advantage of the situation," the chief of the Philippine National Police said in a letter to Local Government Secretary Joey Lina.

Ebdane asked the DILG to enjoin local chief executives to designate public areas, like plazas, as firecracker zones.

If the proposal is adopted, local police authorities will be able to distinguish between a firecracker explosion and a bomb attack, said Director Ricardo de Leon of the PNP police community relations office.

It will be up to the city and municipal mayors in the country's 16 regions to enforce the measure and impose fines on violators, De Leon said.

"Davao City has succeeded in this endeavor, there's no reason we cannot implement this nationwide," he said.

Ebdane told a Senate committee hearing on the PNP's proposed budget that the PNP and the DILG would start looking for appropriate areas in the community where people can light firecrackers for merrymaking.

The PNP is asking for a P44-billion budget for 2003 to effectively address peace and order problems in the country.

Antiterror campaign

Ebdane's proposal for the designation of firecracker zones came in the wake of last month's spate of bomb explosions in Zamboanga City that killed at least 11 people and a bus explosion in Quezon City that left two people dead.

Amid continuing terrorist threats, Ebdane directed the Firearms and Explosives Division to review its rules regulating the use of explosives and other agricultural chemicals that can be used to manufacture bombs.

De Leon said terrorist threats in crowded areas, such as shopping malls and resorts, remained serious.

"The threat of terrorism remains, especially in areas where there is a big convergence of people such as malls and tourist areas," he said.

He said policemen and security guards continued to conduct inspections in shopping malls, mass transport systems and other "areas of convergence."

De Leon advised the police and security agencies not to let their guard down.

"There should be an improved intelligence gathering on the ground. Security guards have special roles because they could be the first to spot suspicious-looking men," he said.

With a report from Cynthia Balana

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Tuesday, November 5, 2002
31st Week in Ordinary Time

1st Reading:	**Phil 2:5-11**
Gospel:	**Lk 14:15-24**

One of the guests at a party said to Jesus, "Happy are those who eat at the banquet in the kingdom of God!"

Jesus replied, "A man once gave a feast and invited many guests. When it was time for the feast he sent his servant to tell those he had invited to come, for everything was ready. But all alike began to make excuses. The first said: 'Please excuse me. I must go and see the piece of land I have just bought.' Another said: 'I am sorry, but I am on my way to try out the five yoke of oxen I have just bought.' Still another said, 'How can I come when I have just married?'

The servant returned alone and reported this to his master. Upon hearing the account, the master of the house flew into a rage and ordered his servant: 'Go out quickly into the streets and alleys of the town and bring in the poor, the crippled, the blind and the lame.'

The servant reported after a while: 'Sir, your orders have been carried out, but there is still room.' The master said: 'Go out to the highways and country lanes and force people to come in, to make sure my house is full. I tell you, none of those invited will have a morsel of my feast.'"

Commentary

The feast of rich people is sumptuous. Everybody is well educated, following the set standards. At least they keep appearances. In today's parable the feast is different. A feast prepared for that kind of people ended up as a carnival. The poor, the lame, and the blind entered into this feast. The doors were open for all. We know well that in such a situation the atmosphere gets spoiled. And the wealthy people leave. They cannot stand it. But joy runs free because those in the feast have never seen the likes. What food! What delights! What drinks! Everything overflows for those who never had anything. This feast resembles the Kingdom of God.

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SUPREME COURT DOCTRINES

CRIMINAL LAW (BOOK I)—Persons criminally liable; accomplice—Article 18 of the Revised Penal Code defines accomplices as "those persons who, not being included in Article 17, cooperate in the execution of the offense by previous or simultaneous acts." To be convicted as an accomplice, it is necessary that the accused be aware of the criminal intent of the principal and then cooperate knowingly or intentionally by supplying material or moral aid for the efficacious execution of the crime. To consider a person an accomplice in the commission of the offense, the following must concur: (1) community of design—knowing the criminal design of the principal by direct participation, one concurs therein; (b) cooperation in the execution of the offense by previous or simultaneous acts, with the intention of supplying material and moral aid in the execution of the crime in an efficacious way; and (c) a relation between the acts done by the principal and those attributed to the person charged as accomplice. To be deemed an accomplice, one needs to have had both knowledge of and participation in the criminal act. In other words, the principal and the accomplice must have acted in conjunction and directed their efforts to the same end. Thus, it is essential that both were united in their criminal design. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Panganiban, Third Division, People v. Tolentino, G. R. No. 139179, April 3, 2002]

DIGEST BY R. B. VERA

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Filipino dreams turn to nightmare

By Chandler E. Ramas III
Contributor

SAN FRANCISCO—He slides a slim jim into a crack in the car window and forcibly opens the door. Then he wires the 2002 Toyota Camry and is gone with his day's loot in 60 seconds.

Across the street from where the 19-year-old car thief is "working," other Filipino youths are making a $10-crack deal while seniors are luring passersby to their den, now an illegal gambling haven.

Another Filipino—30ish, stoned, and taking swigs from a liquor bottle—is heard cussing in Tagalog. Around the corner, Filipino prostitutes haggle with their pimps as a teenage girl takes a fatal fall from her two-story apartment.

This is the Filipino Wild West in downtown San Francisco. The scene is a notorious stretch of Sixth Street, where the Filipino-American dream has turned ugly.

The 19-year-old—call him Jojo—has been in and out of jail for stealing cars, among other offenses. And he is deeply involved in a gang that has taken a new, dangerously unconventional, form.

True, Filipino gangs in the Bay Area have not been engaged in violent stunts and confrontations as before. But they have degenerated into tight cliques that use and sell drugs, particularly shabu (methamphetamine hydrochloride) or "the poor man's cocaine."

Shabu

Shabu is now a well-known Filipino trademark in the local underworld, and the police are not amused.

Sgt. John Haggatt, a Filipino community specialist in the San Francisco Police Department, said that like other gangs, Filipino gangs had shed the typical identification marks like colored head scarves or tattoos.

"Drug dealing and addiction have taken them away," he said.

Haggatt said gang-related violence had somewhat decreased. "At one point it was an epidemic and now it is on the downswing," he said. "It's because their lifestyles have changed and dope has taken over. How can they be active if they are what you call 'praning (Filipino slang for paranoid)' because of dope?"

Drug pushing, as is widely known, is also a lucrative and easy business, Haggat noted. "Compare it to working in, say, a burger joint that gives you like only seven bucks an hour," he said. "But the sad part is, drugs ruin you."

No promise

Jojo just got out of three-month detention in a nearby San Bruno jail, and he says there seems to be no promise of a new lease on life.

A native of Caloocan City in the Philippines and a US immigrant since 1995, he will most likely go back to his old ways, including drug using and dealing.

Jojo abandoned his father, a drug addict, in Oakland some four years ago. He found refuge on Sixth Street, where the Pinoy Pride gang has become his family.

He has been involved in a stabbing incident that resulted from a bloody brawl. For years now he has been hopping from one friend's house to the next, and his Filipino girlfriend is due to deliver his child in a few months.

"*Nasira lang ang buhay ko rito sa America, ewan ko ba* (My life just got screwed up here in America, I don't know)," he told the Philippine News.

'Pinoy Pride'

Pinoy Pride is one of many subgroups on Sixth Street, which is the bastion of such gangs as HTS, MOD (Master of Death) and Cool Tiger.

The gangs are not necessarily rivals at present, and their major enemy is the Cambodian TL (for Tenderloin) gang in the Tenderloin district.

"There's only so much that we can do. We arrest one and 10 will take over," said Filipino-American Officer Joe Robles of the SFPD Special Operations Unit.

Robles, who grew up in the tough neighborhood of Sixth Street, has been adopting a humanitarian approach to the gang and drug problems.

"It's just a matter of talking to these kids, and that may make a difference," he said. "This is a nagging problem we cannot sugarcoat. This is the sad part of our community's life, and something must be done to help our *kababayan*."

San Fo's Tondo

Aling Naty, an old-timer of Sixth Street, couldn't agree more.

"*Kawawa talaga ang mga kababayan natin dito* (Our compatriots are pitiful here)," she told the Philippine News. "They're into drugs, prostitution, identity and credit-card theft. This is the Tondo of San Francisco."

Only recently, Aling Naty said, a woman jumped or was pushed from the apartment above hers, and "she landed right in front of my door."

The neighborhood of Sixth Street has drawn many Filipinos because living is cheap there, at least by San Francisco standards.

But a terrible poverty has driven even the aged to search for ways and means to eke out a living.

Thus, illegal gambling joints abound in the area, operated by senior Filipino Americans trying to augment their pensions of $500-$700 a month.

It is not uncommon for a cramped $900 studio to be occupied by a family of eight.

Jojo swears he has gangmates who grew up in such miserable conditions—an existence that drove them to find a false sense of solace in the violent streets of San Francisco.

Environment execs, cops foil attempt to smuggle 47 mynahs out of Palawan

AUTHORITIES in Palawan rescued 47 talking mynahs before these could be shipped to Cebu City by smugglers.

Investigators could not, however, gather clues on the attempted smuggling from the mynahs. Mynahs are known only to imitate sound and not really talk.

The seized mynahs are yet to be trained on imitating human voices, which make them attractive as pets.

Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez lauded Palawan authorities for the rescue of the birds, which have been placed in DENR custody.

Mynahs are in the list of protected species under the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (Cites), an international agreement that prohibits the trade of endangered animals and plants.

The Philippines ratified the agreement on Oct. 18, 1981.

Alvarez commended Jovito Layugan, DENR Southern Tagalog executive director, and Felix Bacuel, police chief of Roxas, Palawan, for stopping the smuggling of the mynahs.

"These endangered species are continuously threatened because of selfishness and greed of a few. We hope that you will continue your efforts to help in addressing this pressing environmental issue in your locality," Alvarez said in his commendation letters.

Layugan in a report said a team from the DENR Community Environment and Natural Resources Office (Cenro) and the PNP in Roxas seized the 47 talking mynas in Barangay II.

The team was composed of forest rangers Edgar Ferro, Armando Gabayan, Rogelio Yaquitin, Bacuel, SPO2 Monchito Rabang and PO1 Jose Santiago Ferro.

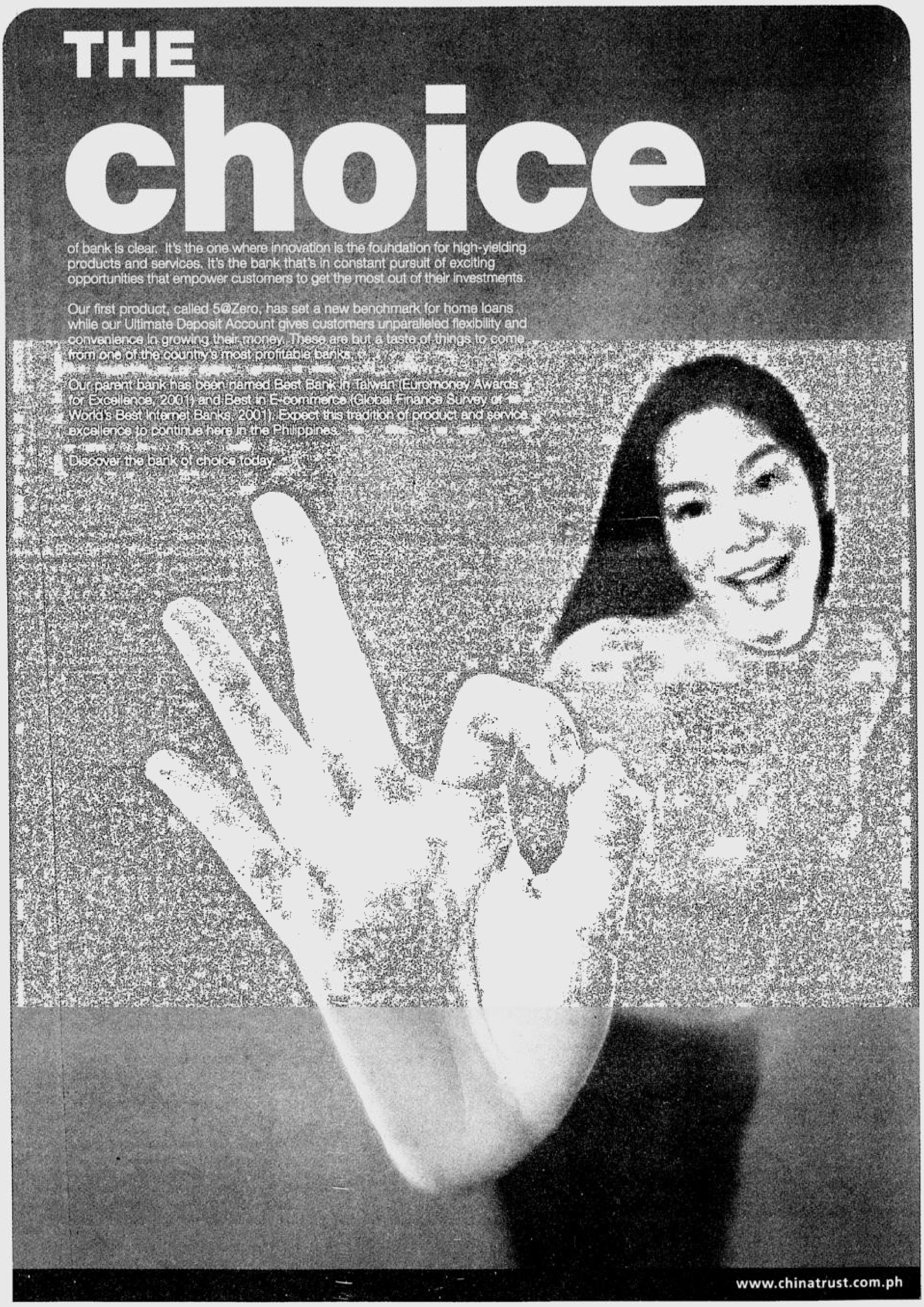
When authorities conducted the raid, the suspects fled and abandoned the birds that were kept in boxes.

Republic Act 9147 or the Wildlife Resources Conservation and Protection Act of 2001, prohibits the trading, collecting, hunting, or possession of wildlife, especially threatened species such as the mynah.

Violators face a maximum imprisonment of up to six years and/or a fine of up to P1 million.

"We vow to continue to intercept profiteers who are engaged in the excessive or illegal trading of our wildlife wealth," Alvarez said.

Gerald Lacuarta



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PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER
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Founding Chairman
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Police state of mind

EDITORIAL

IN THE CASE of the so-called lotto murder in Antipolo City last week, it wasn't only the killers who took a risky gamble. City police chief Supt. Jose Dayco also made a dangerous bet—against civil liberties and a fundamental constitutional principle.

Like the killers, Dayco should be held strictly responsible for reducing life-or-death matters to a game of chance. Sadly for all of us, however, the Antipolo police official is not the only agent of the law to trifle with our civil rights. In many ways, he is the perfect symbol of the Macapagal administration's so-called strong republic: He believes the end of law and order justifies all means.

Consider the lotto case. The day after Arturo Eupeña—erroneously described in the first news reports as a lotto winner and an instant millionaire—was shot dead in his house, Dayco was already telling reporters the police had four suspects in mind. He did not stop there, but went on to identify the victim's wife Leticia and their adopted son Reynan as two of the suspects. The wife had left the conjugal house the day before Eupeña was slain, because she was reportedly outraged by her husband's daily drinking binges. Based on this report, and on nothing else, the police chief proceeded to publicly tie a noose around the neck of the victim's wife. "We find it odd that Ms Eupeña would just leave her husband like that, hence we are investigating," Dayco said.

Not content with smearing the wife of a murder victim, Dayco took his wide and all-too-wieldy brush and painted the couple's 31-year-old son in similar fashion. He told reporters he found it suspicious that the son, who had already left the couple, would begin living at home again after a family member won the P19-million lotto pot on Oct. 12.

Evidently, Dayco's police training—like a hanging—has concentrated his mind. Unfortunately, it has driven common sense out too. By themselves, the reasons that forced the wife to leave the house and the son to return to it are the stuff of human life, Faulknerian verities of ordinary experience. They may have cast mother and child in unflattering light, but only from a certain angle. For others, the wife's despair and the son's homecoming are easy to understand.

But Dayco's behavior last week does not disgust us simply because he lacks compassion or understanding. It revolts us because he takes a fundamental right—the right to be presumed innocent until proven guilty—and casually uses it to wipe his mud-caked military-style boots.

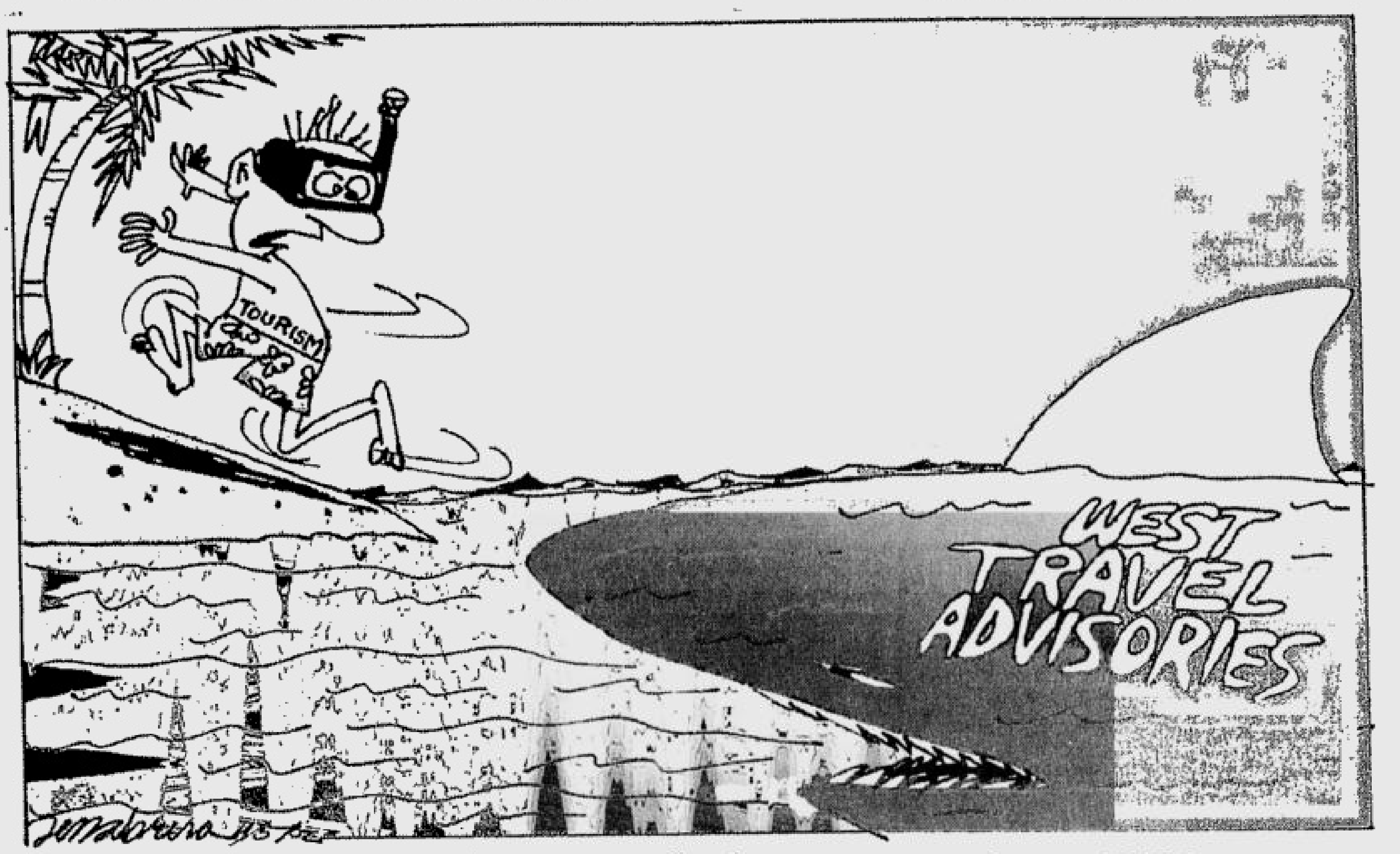
Four days after the slaying, the Antipolo police arrested 10 suspects. One of them, the first to be arrested, had Eupeña's brand-new van in his possession. Two pointed to one another as the crime's mastermind.

What about the wife and the son? Dayco lamely explained that he had tagged them only as a matter of police practice. Seizing the opportunity to lecture the public on police tactics in the strong republic, he then said a good investigator must consider everyone close to the scene of the crime or with a possible motive as suspects.

Of course. That goes without saying. What Dayco forgot, or chose not to mention, is that the police are obliged to keep the identities of the suspects under wraps, until the appropriate time.

In a sense, Dayco shares the blame with President Macapagal-Arroyo, who has made it a habit to pose with various suspects. The very idea of the presentation of suspects is fraught with civil-rights questions, but Ms Macapagal's presence raises the questions to a new level. If the President herself says that a suspect is responsible for a given crime, who is the lowly Department of Justice prosecutor, or the career-driven trial judge, to say otherwise?

A young and ambitious police officer who treats every human motive as suspect may thus find both encouragement and example in the results-oriented leader of a strong republic. By his arithmetic, two innocents damned in public are worth 10 suspects in jail. The numbers don't really add up—except in a police state of mind.



More complaints of abuses against BID

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

(Continued from yesterday)

FAWAZ COZMA is a Syrian national who has been living in the Philippines for the past 16 years. He is married to a Filipino school teacher in Pampanga, with whom he has two bright teenaged daughters. In those 16 years, he has never been in any trouble with the government, until April 23, 2002 when he was arrested by agents of the Bureau of Immigration and Deportation (BID) for objecting to a television crew surreptitiously taking a video footage of him and his two Syrian guests in Angeles City and insisting that the crew surrender to him the videotape. He was charged with "malicious mischief" and "grave coercion." He was jailed at the BID detention center in Bicutan, where he is being detained without bail.

The TV crew filed a complaint against Cozma with the BID, charging him with being an "undesirable alien" and asking for his deportation. Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo rejected several motions for bail on the ground that he was under custodial investigation by the BID.

Dr. Remedios C. Balbin of the Foundation for Social Justice wrote that Domingo kept saying that the TV crew or network management objects to the bail prayed for by Fawaz. This, despite a ruling allowing him to post bail issued by the Metropolitan Trial Court of Angeles City where the case is pending.

Then there is the case of Mohammad Amin Al-Ghafiri, Ph.D., who was ordered by Domingo to be arrested and detained for holding an expired temporary residence visa (TRV). Domingo does not, however, "disclose the fact that bureaucratic red tape and 'new or recently imposed' requirements for renewal unduly delayed his compliance for three months until the TRV finally expired," wrote Balbin.

"But there is a mystery that shrouds his detention," she continued. "On TV and in the newspapers, he was reported to have been deported in mid-October. TV news reports showed him being deported, but where is he? He remains incarcerated at the BID detention center. In short, as far as the Philippines is concerned, Dr. Al-Ghafari is but a memory. But to date, he languishes at BID-Bicutan. What is the BID commissioner up to? In sum, the greatest pepetrator of human rights violations, at least insofar as aliens are concerned, is Commissioner Domingo and the BID, either because of incompetence, gross ignorance or otherwise."

Then there is the case of a group of golfers, mostly Indian nationals, who were detained, harassed and assessed a P3,000 "surveillance fee" at the Laoag International Airport. They were told that there was a directive from the BID banning Indian nationals from entering the country.

The group was led by Magdoom Thamby Fiaz, who is married to a Filipina and living in Hong Kong. The couple met Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon when he went to Hong Kong to ask help in promoting his Tourism V12 project. The couple was organizing golfing tours to various parts of the Philippines where they were impressed by the warm welcome, especially at the Mimosa Golf Club in Clark, but not in Laoag.

The couple told Gordon about their harrowing experience. Gordon assured them that the matter had been cleared up and that an immigration official had been suspended as a result.

"But we learned only recently that we're still not in the clear, after all," wrote Miriam Fatima Fiaz. "Consul Domingo Lucenario Jr. (in Hong Kong) has in fact officially informed us of a memorandum from no less than the Immigration (Commissioner) Andrea Domingo to the Department of Foreign Affairs that my husband is now included in the (BID's) 'lookout' list. No reason was given, except a reiteration of the supposed ban on Indian nationals entering through the Laoag airport."

"I find this reasoning totally unacceptable," Ms Fiaz continued. "First, my husband was holding a valid, multiple entry visa to the Philippines. Nowhere is there any indication in the document that it would not be honored at any point of entry in the country.

"Second, at no time before we flew to Laoag had we been informed of the supposed ban. The consulate officials who were actually the one who organized that golfing trip did not know about this supposed ban, either. And even granting that it did exist, there was no reason why we should be punished for it, since it devolved upon our government representatives here, as well as your accredited travel agents, to inform us about it.

"Third, such a directive smacks of racism. In my opinion, (barring) Indian nationals from entering through one of our international airports is bad policy, and could even lead to a serious international incident between the two governments.

"Fourth, we have been told of a letter sent to Mon Tulfo of the Philippine Daily Inquirer, and copy furnished to the Philippine Consulate, by Roven Ablan, where he admitted very clearly that he asked P3,000 in 'surveillance fee' from us, allegedly at the behest of an immigration official at Laoag airport. If that is the case, I think Domingo is better advised to look into this blatant case of extortion by one of her officers, rather than compound our humiliation by putting my husband in her (bureau's) 'look out' list."

Ms Fiaz told Gordon that the individuals—mostly foreigners—who make up their group that flies to the Philippines for golf as often as twice a month, "have always looked forward to these trips as family affairs...In fact, we have scheduled another trip on Nov. 22, with about 12 guests. But this unfortunate incident could of course change the way we look at things. Despite signing up as a V12 volunteer, I honestly do not know anymore whether I should continue helping our country and, indirectly, the people who treated us so shabbily."

Challenges

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

THAT was a very nice message Terrill Hill, Unicef representative to the Philippines, gave to the public school kids in the remote villages of Mountain Province last weekend, even if the kids couldn't understand it in its original form, which was in English. "Whatever your circumstances in life," Hill said, "I encourage you to dream big, find a hero and work hard... I dream that one day, a child from Mountain Province can become the president of the Philippines."

Hill was particularly inspired by the sight of kids determined to buck poverty by going to school. One kid, eight-year-old Braille Bacagan, wakes up at 6:00 a.m. and walks 10 minutes through tall grass to another mountain to fetch water. At 7:00 a.m., woven knapsack on his back, he hikes for 15 to 20 minutes to school. He has shown particular aptitude in Math.

That sight in fact is more common than we think. I remember that during the 1998 elections, a 12-year-old kid from Payatas named Evangeline was trotted out before the presidential candidates in a TV debate. Evangeline told her story thus: She woke up early each day to help her mother do household work. After that, she trekked for half an hour to school. At the end of the day, when most other kids staggered home and watched soap on TV, she went over to the mountain of garbage near where she lived and picked through the refuse. The money she got from selling what useful articles she found there helped put food on her family's table.

Asked what her ambition was in life, she said she wanted to finish school so she could pluck out her siblings from that life. She dreamed of better things for them and for herself.

There and then, I would also see what was wrong with our leaders. Asked what they would do for this kid if they became president, all the wannabes began talking of their programs and agendas. No one thought of saying that the question was not what they could do for this kid, it was what this kid could do for them. She had just given them a lesson in heroism, the least they could do was stand in awe of it. Clearly, the best thing they could do for her and for the nation generally was to emulate her, to imbibe a small part of her diligence, capacity for self-sacrifice and sense of responsibility.

None of this is to say that these kids get by pretty much without their leaders, they can do without help from them. As someone told me after I wrote that column on Eggie Apostol's efforts to get the private sector to mount an "education revolution," the literature on the subject still points to a full-scale commitment by government as a necessary ingredient to the success of such projects. I myself feel there is no contradiction there, as I suggested in the same column, where I said that the national budget should be stacked even more heavily in favor of education and not, as is happening today, in favor of idiocy, also called "intelligence."

That is the reason I particularly mind corruption, because it represents the loss of resources that could go to dispelling ignorance in this country. I don't mind that the pillage deprives us of roads and bridges, what I mind is that such pillage deprives our kids of light and laughter. The real roads and bridges are not best laid out in Samar or Bicol, they are best laid out in our kids' minds. That is the best reason to protest the theft of public money, or its wastage in a desperate, and profligate, bid to keep someone in Malacañang.

I have only one caveat with what Hill said. Which is: The problem has never been that kids from the boondocks are never able to become president of this country. We may not have had a president from Mountain Province thus far, but we have had presidents from impoverished backgrounds. Chief of them is the current President's father, Disodado, who was known as the "poor boy from Lubao." Ramon Magsaysay's impoverished origins probably owe more to electoral propaganda than to historical fact—he depicted himself, not without help from the Americans, as the mechanic from Zambales who went on to throw a monkey into the Japanese occupation of Iba. But he certainly wasn't rich.

The irony of course was Erap, who was never poor (his family is well off in San Juan) except in spirit, but whom the poor most identified with. If he did not finish school, it was not because he had to fetch water at dawn and pick through refuse at sunset, it was only because he preferred to fetch beer at dawn and pick the company of human refuse at sunset.

The problem has never been that poor kids never get to become presidents of this country. The problem is that when they do, they forget about having been poor and start acting rich, or worse becoming so. The problem is that when they become presidents, they apply themselves only to ending their own personal poverty, or that of their *barkada*, and not that of the nation.

Or put another way, the problem is that they do not change the politics of this country to reflect the interests of those they used to break bread, or share gruel, with. They merely adapt to the politics of their party, or their financial backers, who are the elite, and commit themselves to defending elite interests. That was how they rose to become standard bearers to begin with, not to speak of presidents. Magsaysay turned American boy, the most rabid of them until GMA came along. Diosdado became so as well, decontrolling the economy as the IMF wanted. Not quite incidentally, he also had the Stonehill case blow up in his face, thereto the most scandalous case of graft, until a highway named after him came along 40 years later. Erap, well, he's in jail, or in the hospital, whichever is worse for him.

But solving that requires another type of education, one you don't always get in school.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Right combination

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

THE WHOLE world seems to have become so preoccupied with international terrorism it borders on paranoia. More so our region, as gleaned from the decision of the Asean leaders who met for their annual summit in Phnom Penh to form an anti-terrorism coalition. The Asean leaders are obviously playing up their determination to confront terrorism before it even hits their shores, in an effort to convince foreign tourists and investors that theirs is a safe place. Such a stand is not surprising, since terrorism, if it strikes, will hurt both prospects at a time when the region's economy can ill afford it. Conventional wisdom dictates that it's better to be paranoid than sorry.

* * *

We in the Philippines, together with Indonesia, have gotten used to being known as nurturing pockets of terrorism, but it was fascinating for me to watch our generally peaceful neighbor, Thailand, learning to cope with it. Compared to RP, it appears more relaxed about the threat of terrorism. For instance, we attended a dinner at the grand dame of Bangkok's hotels, the Oriental Mandarin Hotel. Though the hotel swarmed with locals and foreigners, there were no electronic walk-through security door, or bag inspection or sniffing dogs. In Phuket, Thailand's most famous island resort, we ran into one checkpoint on the highway, but nothing else. Even the huge theater which featured a high-tech fantasy show of clashing warriors, trained elephants, a running tiger, Siamese classical dancers, etc., did not require even a bag check.

I surmise that the Thai authorities don't want to alarm the tourists and is bent on projecting the image that the tourist is safe anywhere in Thailand. But I'm not sure this is sensible policy at this time. All it takes is one big terrorist blast and Phuket would take months to recover. It's better to prevent it.

* * *

In Phuket, I found myself analyzing what made it click as a tourist destination. The beaches that ring one side of the island have coarse beige-colored sand (in fact the sand at the beach of Phuket's top hotel, the gorgeous 280-room Marriott Resort Hotel and Spa, looks like unwashed brown sugar). We have far better resorts and beaches: Boracay's white powdery coral sands is undoubtedly without equal anywhere in the world. But the tourists come in droves to this Thai island that once survived on tin mining. Today Phuket derives 80 percent of its income from tourism and is among the top revenue producers of Thailand.

* * *

Phuket's success was not an overnight phenomenon. It's story is a classic in development and marketing strategy that our resorts could learn from, especially on the eve of the DOT's "Visit the Philippines Year" for 2003. We have to look for a winning combination similar to Phuket's.

Visited by a few Europeans (as Boracay was in the early days), Phuket first received international attention when the "The Man with the Golden Gun" was filmed there, with Roger Moore as James Bond. Once the movie was released, Phuket was on its way to stardom as a tourist destination. Up to now tourists still flock to "James Bond Island," one of the many islands dotting the area. Since then Phuket has been the location for many films, the latest being "The Beach," starring American heart-throb Leonardo di Caprio.

* * *

Realizing the tremendous potential of their island, the local businessmen decided to team up for survival. They formed the Phuket Tourists Association which badgered the government for improved infrastructure, such as an airport extension that would allow international flights. Finally, after 10 frustrating years, the government acknowledged the island's potential and approved its master plan and promotions campaign. It built a new international airport and good roads, and the first international flights brought in Singaporeans looking for good beaches (because they don't have them). With the increase in arrivals, the big hotel chains came. Last year, Phuket saw a 13.59 percent increase in the number of rooms in the 3, 4 and 5-star hotels.

* * *

One secret of Phuket, and Thailand for that matter, is that everyone seems focused on tourism. One of the first businessmen to put up a hotel in Phuket, Khun Vichit Na Ranong, said in a magazine write-up, "Look around, wherever you go you'll see something to do with tourism." There's something for every tourist, be they kids on an elephant trail or teenagers looking for the fast life in the bars, or dozens of older tourists being pampered with a Thai massage right on the beach—the ultimate luxury for the Westerners beset by cold weather abroad. Then there's the exotic Thai culture in the cuisine, dances, boxing, etc.

* * *

In Bangkok I had a conversation with a Filipina named Barbara Tandog, and her Dutch husband, Marcel Ewals, whose firm, RAI Exhibitions (Thailand) Co. Ltd., is involved in setting up and packaging international conventions and exhibitions. I asked them the inevitable question: Why do tourists go to Thailand and not to RP? Barbara replied by noting that 1.2 million Japanese yearly go to Thailand and only 300,000 to Kuala Lumpur, the reason being that in Thailand they are well cared for by tourism people who speak their language and understand their culture. She said that when she and her staff sell conventions and exhibitions abroad, the faces of foreign investors light up when Bangkok is mentioned as the venue—it has a huge drawing capacity.

What keeps the Thais focused on tourism is the money of course. Looking at the swarm of tourists on Patong Beach, Phuket's largest and rowdiest, my husband remarked that if each of them spent only $10 a day, that would already add up to an incredible amount.

Proud to be Pinoy

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

I DON'T remember if "Parisian Life" was among the paintings on view at the "Luna and Hidalgo" exhibit about five years ago at the Metropolitan Museum of Manila. My husband and I brought the children to the show, and I do remember my son, then in his teens, exclaiming toward the end of the exhibit: "*Ang galing-galing nila!* (They're so good!)."

I felt heartened by his reaction, not only because it validated our decision to spend a precious weekend at the museum, but also because it meant he was developing an appreciation for things Filipino, as well as a sense of pride in his history and heritage.

Unfortunately, there haven't been too many events of a similar nature in the years since. True, we've been to the National Museum, and our son, now a young adult, has developed a growing appreciation for fine Filipino films. But these days, he seems to take greatest pride in the work of Filipino comic book artists who've made a name for themselves in the comic book capital of the world, the United States.

So I very much doubt if my son, as with most other Filipinos around his age, would have cared a whit if "Parisian Life" had ended up in the hands of a foreign collector or museum, or, as it turns out, was successfully brought home to take its place on the walls of the GSIS Museum and Gallery.

I don't really know if bringing home the Luna was such a coup for Philippine art. If the status of a country's artists is judged by their standing among their peers around the world, then wouldn't it have been better for the Luna to have ended up with a respected collector of international standing or, better yet, in a prestigious museum abroad? As it is, Luna seems to be revered only by Filipinos, with the market for Lunas deemed largely a "Filipino market." So the auction by Christie's in Hong Kong would most likely have resulted in its ending up in Filipino hands, with or without the GSIS largesse of P46 million.

* * *

REPORTS have it that "Parisian Life" had a floor price of P11 million and Christie's presale projections placed the ceiling on the painting at a mere P16 million.

Could it be true, to quote from Today newspaper's "Open Notebook," that the "hyperventilating Garcia bobbing up and down, the No. 16 card raised above his head like a man possessed" pushed the painting's price ever higher as he sought to compete against two "mysterious telephone bidders?" This paper's story on the bidding said Garcia or, more accurately, the GSIS, was in fact competing against two other Filipinos who preferred to remain anonymous. So, at the end of the day, the story is that it was a Filipino who decided to sell the painting, it was Filipinos who raised a howl about its export permit and who in the end folded and issued the permit anyway, and it was Filipinos who, by competing against each other, drove up the price of "Parisian Life" to the detriment of the country's long-suffering civil servant retirees.

If the story of "Parisian Life" is shot full of irony, then it was supplied by Filipinos, the very same people who profess to love Luna so much we cannot bear to part with even a single painting of his.

* * *

IT'S rather disingenuous of Garcia to claim that the Luna painting constitutes an "asset" for the members of the GSIS, and that the decision to purchase it was a reasonable investment risk.

Since the GSIS Museum doesn't charge for admittance, it's doubtful if the presence of the painting could bring in extra revenue to the institution. And since the GSIS can't sell the painting without raising a howl (even louder) from our Luna-loving public, then it remains a non-performing asset. It may rise in value as the years go by, but that only on paper. No way could "Parisian Life" enrich the coffers of the GSIS or even make it possible for retirees eking by on their meager pensions to enjoy bigger monthly allowances.

The only one who could possibly profit from the purchase is Garcia, who has seen his social stock rise from a mere bureaucrat to an art patron, his company—and GSIS funds—courted by the cognoscenti and the perfumed set.

* * *

BUT all this is paint and retirement assets under the bridge. Perhaps the next time a "masterpiece" or work of a renowned Filipino artists goes up for auction abroad, the best that can be done is for all possible bidders, at least all Filipinos, to agree on a reasonable ceiling especially if public funds are going to be used to buy the art work.

Meantime, we can all work toward steering the next generation of Filipinos to appreciate the artistry, skill and genius of our people, not just of those who lived a hundred or more years ago, but also of those toiling in our midst, turning out works of art that largely go unnoticed and unappreciated by a society enamored of celebrity and flash.

How many parents, for instance, take their children to visit our museums? Do you know that an entrance ticket to the Museum of the Filipino People costs less than a movie ticket in the upscale cinemas? How many of us patronize our native performing artists, and encourage our children to watch Filipino dances, plays and musicals, and not only because it's a class requirement?

Being "proud to be Pinoy" goes beyond beating one's breasts about the possible loss of a 19th century painting. It means supporting those who make us proud, and inculcating that sense of pride in the race and in our accomplishments in the Filipinos who will come after us.

In shambles

SENSE AND SENSIBILITY

Bambi L. Harper

DOES the National Historical Institute by any chance have a new spokesman that the rest of us, including the NHI chair, don't know? In Saturday's INQUIRER, a certain Carlos Celdran, described as a development officer of the Heritage Conservation Society, is supposed to have told the INQUIRER that "the NHI and Manila City Hall are moving toward a compromise." Oh? What information is he privy to from the NHI or City Hall that he speaks with such certainty?

As a founding member of the HCS and its first president, I am rather concerned that the impression being imparted to its members and the public who read Celdran's statements on issues of conservation is that the HCS believes that there is nothing wrong with plunking a concrete structure in one of the few open spaces left in the city. An open space which was once the historical site of the first *parian* and later the one and only botanical garden this benighted country ever had.

(It is needless to point out that as soon as the land fell into our hands, the idea was abandoned. At least previous city administrations left it bare of any buildings even if they obviously failed to see that a tropical country should have a botanical garden as a matter of pride in the wealth of its eco-system. And let's not get into the issue that a college is much more important simply because it has been pointed out that Manila owns two empty properties facing the Pasig by the Quezon Bridge that could easily be used for the purpose. There is the GSIS building which is still standing empty close to City Hall and can easily be used as college or some other purpose; like the mayor himself once suggested, it could be used as a Hall of Justice, remember? Today we have neither the hall nor the Jai-Alai Building. Needless to say City Hall and the GSIS don't see eye to eye. The President doesn't want to take sides and neither it seems does any other national official.)

According to the "new" NHI spokesman, Celdran, "the NHI may allow the construction of the school as long as the trees would be preserved and that future archaeological excavations would be permitted." How do you manage to preserve any trees when you pour concrete on them? Will the NHI or its new spokesman please clarify?

Again according to Celdran's reading of the declaration of Mehan Garden as historical landmark, only those trees that will be in the future building's "footprints" will be removed but the entire ground floor will be temporarily paved with bricks. The operative word note is "temporary." Eventually the implication is that this will become permanent. Temporary or not, the point is that the garden will be gone, right? And this is preservation?

Celdran goes on to say that City Hall (one is rather confused about whose spokesman he really is) intends to restore Mehan—listen to this—to the way it was in 1858. Don't bother to ask how that can be done by constructing an edifice on top of it. Presumably it's done with mirrors—as in magic.

Surely if you stand for the conservation and preservation of a city's landmarks, you don't approve the pouring of tons of concrete on what was once a historical garden. Further if you are in any way aware of the hazards of pollution and the number of people succumbing to bronchial illnesses due to the filth in the city's air, you wouldn't dream of defending the removal of that open space but would beg that more trees be planted and open spaces provided. So will the HCS kindly clarify its stand unequivocally, for the benefit of those who believed that we were for heritage and environment?

No doubt there will be the usual claims that I am elitist, that I don't care about the students, that I am not from Manila anymore (frankly, there are also a number of city administrators who don't live there either), that I am against progress, etc. etc. (I can't remember the other accusations.)

What it really amounts to is that I have felt for some time now that the Filipino is in no position due to the hardships of his life to reflect on the fact that the air he's breathing is killing his children, addling their brains and causing unnecessary medical expenditures. Neither is he in any position to wait until he earns enough to have the leisure to question where his plazas have gone, why Ninoy Aquino's statue is installed where it doesn't belong historically, why the names of 300-year-old streets like Aduana have been changed, or why Rizal Park shrinks with every additional government building, etc., etc.

If a middle class will ever rise in this country, it will be too late for all those questions. Take a look at the Pasig, what was once Binondo and even Malate and you'll know what I mean.

Marinduque Rep. Edmund Reyes was quoted in the same issue as stating that a recent survey showed that "Filipino youth had a very shallow appreciation of the country's history and cultural heritage." Now, why doesn't that surprise me? Its officials don't appear to have any appreciation for it either. Tell me who among them went to bat for the preservation or the restoration of Mehan as a botanical garden? Which senator or congressman fought against the demolition of the Jai-Alai Building? As their elders, so too the children.

Addict

YOUNG BLOOD

Ianthe

We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—Ed.

IT is common knowledge that using illegal drugs is against the law. It's a major crime in our country. At home, parents always tell their children that drugs are harmful and they must be avoided at all costs. In school, teachers remind their students about the ugly effects of taking illegal substances.

Still we hear so many stories about how lives have been ruined by drug addiction. So many of our youth today are getting hooked without being aware of what they are actually getting into, what is waiting for them in that path.

Believe me when I say it is a path that is not worth taking, a curiosity that is not worth satisfying. I have been there. I was a drug addict for five years. I was addicted to methamphetamine hydrochloride, otherwise known as *shabu*.

The first time I used drugs, my excuse was that it would help me prepare for an exam in school. Somebody said that was what the drug was supposed to do: help us review our lessons. My friends and I thought it was a "cool" idea. I was only 14 years old then. And that's when it all began.

At first, I tried it out of my curiosity. Soon my friends and I were using it occasionally. Finally, it became my secret life. As they say, curiosity killed the cat. My drug addiction almost killed me.

Before I got hooked on *shabu*, I had a life. I come from a good family. My parents have been married for 31 years. My siblings are all achievers and products of the country's premier university. I was studying in a good school and I was an above-average student. I was the youngest and was everyone's baby. Life was good.

It didn't take long before everything started to fall apart because of my secret life. My grades fell as I began to cut classes. There were times that I wouldn't go to school. I didn't care. School was not important anymore. I just wanted to enjoy my fix.

I started to push my family away because I was hiding another life. I was stealing money, jewelry and anything I could get my hands on just to sustain my vice. Lying became a habit. Later on, I was running away from home all the time.

The streets didn't offer me solace. I just knew it gave me easier access to what I wanted most. I was hanging out with unsavory characters who were just waiting for "hits." I chose drugs over everything that was good in my life.

During those five long years, my situation turned from bad to worse. I got into terrible relationships. Once, I lived with a guy who was also an addict. He would beat me up whenever he couldn't get what he wanted. After a few months, I was able to break away from him. Then, it was just one bad relationship after another.

There was this one incident that I would never be able to forget. I experienced the worst nightmare a girl could have: I was raped.

I kept it to myself. I couldn't tell anyone because I thought nobody would believe an addict like me. Worse, I couldn't tell my family because they were oblivious to what was going on. My parents and my siblings thought that I was just going through a rebellious phase, like most teenagers do.

After the rape, my life just got more messed up. I used drugs to ease my pain. And when the pain seemed to be more than I could bear, I tried to kill myself. I was just not "lucky" enough to have succeeded.

All throughout my ordeal, my family stood by me even when I tried to push them farther and farther away. It was because of them that I was able to finish high school through a home-study program. My siblings would take turns bringing me to and from school when I had to submit assignments. They would patiently wait for me when I had to take my exams.

When I went to college, I was not used to dealing with "good" people anymore. I had a difficult time adjusting to normal school conditions. I shied away from socializing with "nice" kids. I felt I was very different from them.

I dropped out of school and went back to my old habits. Once I was rushed to a hospital because my body simply could not take more of the abuses I was doing to it.

When finally I wanted to stop, I couldn't do it. I was no longer in control of my life; the drugs had control over me.

I asked help from my parents and I am grateful that despite everything, they still loved me enough to help me. I was brought to a rehabilitation center that helped me become sober. I was there for eight months—eight months of pure struggle.

Now I am already 20, and I am proud to say that I have been sober for more than one year. I am trying to move on with my life, trying to start all over again. It is hard but I believe it's worth it.

I am grateful for the second chance I am getting. I know a lot of people who are still in that old path and they cannot or they refuse to leave it.

I am still in a phase called "after care." I attend out-of-rehab sessions and every day is still a struggle for me.

I realize that I have to live with the stigma of being a former addict. Life will never be the same again, but at least I am more hopeful about the future now.

Drug addiction is not something you want. As I have said, it is a path that is not worth taking. Drug addiction means digging your own grave. It is a path that leads to death, jail or an institution.

Before you try to satisfy your curiosity or try to gain the approval of "friends" by taking drugs, think twice, thrice, many times over. Remember the Tagalog saying, "*Sa huli lagi ang pagsisisi.*"

Ianthe, 20, says she is hoping her story will help someone out there who reads it.

THEY SAID

Different perspective

"I thought it was the most beautiful dog until someone who was an expert told me it was actually ugly and definitely not winnable."

—Dog breeder Joel Sambrano, on his heartbreaking experience when he was new in the dog show competitions

Looking for Moses

"We need a Moses in our midst, not necessarily to shepherd us to the land of milk and honey, but to a place that is just safe and clean."

—Rep. Miguel Zubiri, addressing a seminar attended by selected students

Evil of terrorism

"What I've seen today is enough to break anyone's heart, a shocking sight, utterly appalling and it drives home to anybody the evil of terrorism, of mass murder."

—Australian Foreign Minister Alexander Downer, reacting to the tragedy in Bali, Indonesia

PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER LETTERS

Amendments to Local Government Code

ALLOW me to make some suggestions to the people who are working on the revision of the 1991 Local Government Code. There are certain provisions that need to be repealed, modified or clarified to keep them attuned to the times. The revision should also help answer some questions being posed by local officials and guide them in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Among the matters that should be given serious study are:

1) The power of the vice mayor to appoint the officers and employees of the Sanggunian with the concurrence of the majority of its members.

2) The adoption of a mechanism to stop barangay officials from undertaking "ghost projects" in connivance with corrupt employees of some government agencies like the Commission on Audit; overpricing materials, barangay halls and outposts.

3) The organization of various brigades such as Ladies Auxiliary, Disaster/Fire, Traffic, to help minimize if not solve the perennial problems of traffic, rescue and relief operations, garbage, flood and roads maintenance, among other things. This will encourage citizens' participation in various community development programs and projects.

4) Adoption of a performance audit by appropriate government and agencies, which should result in the filing of appropriate charges against officials involved in graft and corrupt practices.

5) Repeal of the recall and people's initiative to save much needed funds. The terms of local officials have already been shortened, thus abusive, corrupt and inefficient officials can be replaced after three years through the electoral process. Besides, the recall process is being abused by some people for political motives and to protect their interests. Let us punish officials through the judicial system while observing their right to due process.

I hope that these suggestions will catch the attention of the Senate's technical working committee.

—SONNY VILLAFUERTE CASTALLA,
95-A General San Miguel,
Sangandaan, Caloocan City

Figures on rights violation bloated

THE 5th Infantry (Star) Division of the Philippine Army has been patronizing the INQUIRER since it often features articles about the accomplishments of the Philippine Army, including our division which is based in Northern Luzon. These articles have served as a morale booster to our troops operating in the hinterlands of the Sierra Madre and Cordillera mountain ranges. They projected the Army as the protector of peoples' rights, lives and properties.

I have always looked upon your paper with high esteem for its impartiality and balanced reporting. However, I was saddened by the article last Oct. 9, entitled "Rights group assails Defensor for OPLAN 'Gordian Knot.'" It caused severe disappointment among my men and the people of Northern Luzon, who know the actual security picture, because of the alarmingly bloated figures of alleged human rights violations committed by our troops.

It is quite right to entertain opinion especially when they come from well-known human rights advocates like Beverly Longid, who appears to be dedicated to looking after the welfare of the Cordillera people. Nonetheless, her inference on OPLAN "Gordian Knot" as another instrument of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to escalate human rights violations is unfair and unfounded. The figures she dished out to justify her claims about numerous military abuses in Northern Luzon should have been verified with the regional offices of the Commission on Human Rights.

For the information of your readers, OPLAN "Gordian Knot" was conceived to foil the resurgence and prevent further acts of terrorism by the CPP/NPA in the countryside. Records at the CHR office in Region 2 clearly show that only one alleged human rights violation involving the military was recorded since January this year. A certification to this effect, signed by Domingo B. Quilang III, is attached.

I also vehemently deny that we are recruiting minors to the Cafgu. And we never raided any office or house of members of non-government organizations. We strictly adhere to existing policies and guidelines of higher headquarters on the recruitment of regular troops and territorial forces and we obey all other laws, national or international, pertaining to the respect of human rights and civil liberties.

—RODOLFO G. ALVARADO,
Brigadier General, AFP, 5th Infantry (Star)
Division, Philippine Army, Camp Melchor F
dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela

Can computers educate?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

FOR the last two years, I have maintained a website for my students where I post announcements, course outlines, various readings and linkages to other Internet resources.

Through those last two years, I have also had suspicions that the cost of maintaining the website—rental fees from my own pocket, as well as time put in to maintain and update the site—doesn't quite match the benefits in terms of added value to the learning process.

Now comes a report from the British magazine The Economist confirming my fears. A summary of an editorial in that magazine's Oct. 26 issue puts it bluntly: "Teaching with computers is no real help, and sometimes harmful."

The editorial notes that the idea that we can enhance learning through the use of computers is only the latest in a history of high expectations from communications technologies. "First it was the movie, then the radio receiver, and then the television," The Economist notes, each seen as "magical technology" that would transform children's education.

The Economist goes on to note how governments have poured in billions of dollars to bring computers and educational software into classrooms, with "mountains of studies" demonstrating the impact of these technologies. The problem is that few of these studies actually use scientific methods to look at the impact. There are few studies that compare classes with and without computers. None of the studies use random assignments of students into the groups to be compared, again a requirement for a rigorous scientific study.

Now one study comes out of Israel utilizing rigorous controls to show that computers don't enhance learning, at least among the young in classrooms. Not only that, one of the Israeli study's findings is that computers even impede learning; specifically, they found out that fourth-graders taught math with computers did worse than their counterparts who did not use computers.

The researchers found out that computers introduced into classrooms had a disruptive effect, tending to split students into "noisy little groups" and reducing their interaction with teachers.

There is an assumption that computers in the classroom allow students to move at their own pace, but again the Israeli study said this was not true, mainly because the educational software tended to be too "one-size-fits-all" rather than being tailored to individual needs. Teachers, it seems, are still better at responding to the differences in students' abilities.

I should explain that my own foray into the use of computers for students is quite different: The computers are meant more as a supplementary teaching method. From the beginning, I have been careful not to make it a major teaching tool, mainly because I am aware that there are still students who do not have regular access to computers.

On the other hand, I did see the potential of the computer for reducing the inequities in terms of access to information. I'd hoped that students who couldn't afford books, magazines and other reference materials could access the information from my website and other sites on the Internet. With "data smog" on the Internet, I also felt it was important to guide students to reliable Internet sites.

Unfortunately, and this is the same problem we have with the attempts to use radio, television and videos, students seem to look at the computer and the Internet more as an entertainment venue rather than an educational tool. Visit our Internet cafés and you will see what I mean: they're packed with students but most of them are playing computer games or are in chat rooms. I wasn't surprised to find the Israeli study noting how the computers disrupted classroom activities since computers are associated with games, rather than education.

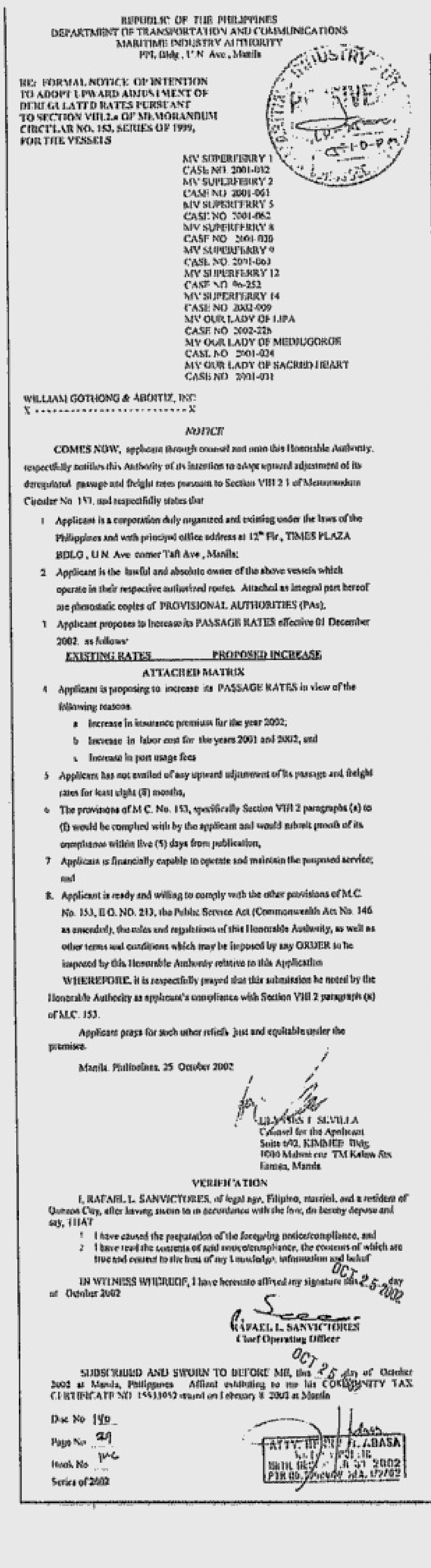
One reason I felt I was wasting time on the websites was that repeatedly I had inserted "bonus questions" in exams, the answers to which were posted on my website. In a recent exam, out of 25 students, only one had apparently visited the site and was therefore able to answer the bonus question. Students just aren't interested in an academic website.

When they do surf the Net as part of school work, the results can be even more disturbing. Many of my fellow teachers are noting a disturbing "cut and paste" trend in student papers, where students just zoom in and cut out something from the Internet, and then paste it into their papers. Even when there is proper attribution of the source, the tendency is still to use large chunks of unprocessed information from the Internet. Rather than challenging students to think more critically, the Internet seem to be encouraging intellectual sloth.

It's not surprising to find students who will go out and do fieldwork and then submit a term paper that consists mainly of stuff cut out from the Internet. The fieldwork data are token, often in the form of photographs taken to prove they went out. This is an example of how computers and the Internet actually block the learning process. Students are now unwilling to put in more time to do real research in terms of observing and listening to the world around them. Instead, they become passive receptacles for canned information, which is repackaged for a term paper.

I am still convinced that computers can play a role in education, especially for more mature students and professionals. Otherwise we have to be very careful with our expectations. Even the best of educational software and Internet websites will be useless if parents and teachers don't teach the kids to evaluate the information.

Computers will not solve our problems in education. The machines and the software can help in the teaching process but ultimately, it's still people—teachers and parents—who can educate, mainly by instilling good learning habits.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
PPL Bldg., U.N. Ave., Manila

RE: FORMAL NOTICE OF INTENTION
TO ADOPT UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF
DEREGULATED RATES PURSUANT
TO SECTION VIII.2.a OF MEMORANDUM
CIRCULAR NO. 153, SERIES OF 1999,
FOR THE VESSELS

MV SUPERFERRY 1
CASE NO. 2001-032
MV SUPERFERRY 2
CASE NO. 2001-061
MV SUPERFERRY 5
CASE NO. 2001-062
MV SUPERFERRY 8
CASE NO. 2001-030
MV SUPERFERRY 9
CASE NO. 2001-063
MV SUPERFERRY 12
CASE NO. 96-252
MV SUPERFERRY 14
CASE NO. 2002-009
MV OUR LADY OF LIPA
CASE NO. 2002-228
MV OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE
CASE NO. 2001-024
MV OUR LADY OF SACRED HEART
CASE NO. 2001-031

WILLIAM GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC.
X-----------------------------X

NOTICE

COMES NOW, applicant through counsel and unto this Honorable Authority, respectfully notifies this Authority of its intention to adopt upward adjustment of its deregulated passage and freight rates pursuant to Section VIII 2 1 of Memorandum Circular No. 153, and respectfully states that

1. Applicant is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines and with principal office address at 12th Flr., TIMES PLAZA BLDG., U.N. Ave. corner Taft Ave., Manila;
2. Applicant is the lawful and absolute owner of the above vessels which operate in their respective authorized routes. Attached as integral part hereof are photostatic copies of PROVISIONAL AUTHORITIES (PAs);
3. Applicant proposes to increase its PASSAGE RATES effective 01 December 2002, as follows:

EXISTING RATES PROPOSED INCREASE
ATTACHED MATRIX

4. Applicant is proposing to increase its PASSAGE RATES in view of the following reasons:
   a. Increase in insurance premium for the year 2002;
   b. Increase in labor cost for the years 2001 and 2002, and
   c. Increase in port usage fees
5. Applicant has not availed of any upward adjustment of its passage and freight rates for least eight (8) months;
6. The provisions of M.C. No. 153, specifically Section VIII 2 paragraphs (a) to (f) would be complied with by the applicant and would submit proofs of its compliance within five (5) days from publication;
7. Applicant is financially capable to operate and maintain the proposed service; and
8. Applicant is ready and willing to comply with the other provisions of M.C. No. 153, E.O. NO. 213, the Public Service Act (Commonwealth Act No. 146 as amended), the rules and regulations of this Honorable Authority, as well as other terms and conditions which may be imposed by any ORDER to be imposed by this Honorable Authority relative to this Application.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed that this submission be noted by the Honorable Authority as applicant's compliance with Section VIII 2 paragraph (a) of M.C. 153.

Applicant prays for such other reliefs just and equitable under the premises.

Manila, Philippines, 25 October 2002

ULYSSES F. SEVILLA
Counsel for the Applicant
Suite 602, KIMMER Bldg.
1010 Mabini cor. TM Kalaw Sts.
Ermita, Manila

VERIFICATION

I, RAFAEL L. SANVICTORES, of legal age, Filipino, married, and a resident of Quezon City, after having sworn to in accordance with the law, do hereby depose and say, THAT

1. I have caused the preparation of the foregoing notice/compliance, and
2. I have read the contents of said notice/compliance, the contents of which are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this OCT 25 2002 day of October 2002

RAFAEL L. SANVICTORES
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this OCT 25 day of October 2002 at Manila, Philippines. Affiant exhibiting to me his COMMUNITY TAX CERTIFICATE NO. 15433032 issued on February 8 2002 at Manila

Doc No. 190
Page No. 29
Book No. [illegible]
Series of 2002

ATTY. [illegible] ADASA
NOTARY PUBLIC
UNTIL DEC. 31 2002
PTR NO. [illegible] MLA. 1/2/02

WG & A PASSAGE MAIN PORT

EFFECTIVE DEC.01, 2002

MLA TO / FROM	SUPER VALUE		MEGA VALUE		TOURIST		BUSINESS CLASS		CABIN		ROYAL CABIN		STATE ROOM		SUITE ROOM	
	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS
Bacolod	1,390	1,475	1,555	1,645	1,640	1,720	1,670	1,755	1,710	1,820	3,635 (2)	3,845 (2)	3,760 (2)	4,095 (2)	4,640 (2)	4,870 (2)
Cagayan de Oro	1,690	1,815	1,840	1,965	1,935	2,120	2,095	2,235	2,245	2,395	4,580 (2)	5,000 (2)	4,790 (2)	5,210 (2)	5,080 (2)	5,500 (2)
Cebu	1,330	1,410	1,480	1,565	1,615	1,670	1,650	1,755	1,815	1,900			4,055 (2) 6,080 (3) 8,105 (4)	4,580 (2) 6,865 (3) 9,155 (4)	4,370 (2) 6,550 (3)	4,790 (2) 7,180 (3)
Coron	925	1,000	1,210	1,280	1,370	1,430			1,745	1,825			4,095 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,265 (2)	4,580 (2)
Cotabato	1,790	1,975	1,910	2,080	2,050	2,215	2,185	2,395	2,355	2,595			5,020 (2)	5,335 (2)	5,420 (2)	5,735 (2)
Davao / Gensan	1,765	1,930	1,910	2,080	2,015	2,185	2,185	2,420	2,420	2,655			5,335 (2)	5,670 (2)	5,440 (2)	6,130 (2)
Dipolog	1,185	1,290	1,555	1,640			1,810	1,970	1,920	2,060			4,000 (2)	4,265 (2)		
Dumaguete	1,330	1,410	1,555	1,640	1,700	1,785	1,785	1,870	1,815	1,920			3,800 (2)	4,075 (2)	4,535 (2)	4,850 (2)
Dumaguit / Roxas	970	1,050	1,085	1,155	1,170	1,255			1,495	1,580			3,330 (2)	3,495 (2)	3,530 (2)	3,695 (2)
Iligan	1,405	1,490	1,480	1,630	1,780	1,920	1,890	2,025	1,985	2,130			4,160 (2)	4,475 (2)	4,370 (2)	4,685 (2)
Iloilo	1,390	1,475	1,555	1,645	1,640	1,720	1,670	1,755	1,710	1,820	3,635 (2)	3,845 (2)	3,760 (2)	4,095 (2)	4,640 (2)	4,870 (2)
Masbate	465	530	565	630			880	945	985	1,050			2,605 (2)	2,940 (2)		
Nasipit/ Butuan	1,640	1,765	1,735	1,850	1,910	2,050	1,960	2,130	2,065	2,290			4,610 (2)	4,895 (2)	4,810 (2)	5,210 (2)
Ozamiz	1,405	1,490	1,480	1,630	1,780	1,920	1,890	2,025	1,985	2,130			4,160 (2)	4,475 (2)	4,370 (2)	4,685 (2)
Palompon	775	840	965	1,030			1,280	1,345	1,385	1,450			3,085 (2)	3,215 (2)		
Puerto Princesa	1,260	1,340	1,420	1,505	1,575	1,660			1,745	1,825			4,095 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,265 (2)	4,580 (2)
Surigao	1,465	1,595	1,630	1,700	1,840	1,910	1,900	1,955	1,990	2,210			4,450 (2)	4,735 (2)	4,525 (2)	4,885 (2)
Tagbilaran	1,330	1,410	1,555	1,640	1,700	1,785	1,785	1,870	1,815	1,920			3,740 (2)	3,905 (2)	4,160 (2)	4,370 (2)
Zamboanga	1,375	1,545	1,525	1,690	1,630	1,815	1,795	1,965	1,965	2,130			4,160 (2)	4,580 (2)	4,475 (2)	5,000 (2)

WG & A PASSAGE INTERPORT RATES

EFFECTIVE DEC.01, 2002

WG&A PASSAGE INTERPORT RATES	SUPER VALUE		MEGA VALUE		TOURIST		BUSINESS CLASS		CABIN		ROYAL CABIN		STATE ROOM		SUITE ROOM	
	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS
Bacolod-Cagayan	1,360	1,400	1,400	1,445	1,510	1,575	1,575	1,635	1,815	1,955	3,790 (2)	4,055 (2)	4,185 (2)	4,450 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,720 (2)
Bacolod - Iligan	1,285	1,330	1,330	1,405	1,435	1,495	1,495	1,560	1,560	1,625			3,320 (2)	3,530 (2)	3,530 (2)	3,740 (2)
Bacolod-Ozamiz	1,310	1,355	1,355	1,430	1,460	1,525	1,525	1,590	1,590	1,655			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,810 (2)
Cagayan - Dumaguete	545		555		695		840		915				2,095 (2)		2,385 (2)	
Cagayan - Iloilo	1,360	1,400	1,400	1,445	1,510	1,575	1,575	1,635	1,815	1,955	3,790 (2)	4,055 (2)	4,185 (2)	4,450 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,720 (2)
Cebu-Iligan	555	610	645	690	795	890	905	1,000	1,045	1,135			2,450 (2)	2,645 (2)	2,645 (2)	2,890 (2)
Cebu-Nasipit	545	600	635	675	780	870	885	980	1,025	1,115			2,405 (2)	2,595 (2)	2,595 (2)	2,835 (2)
Cebu-Surigao	465	505	520	555	615	655	710	745	790	850			1,775 (2)	1,900 (2)	1,955 (2)	2,090 (2)
Coron-Puerto Princesa	940	1,015	1,230	1,305	1,395	1,455			1,775	1,860			3,915 (2)	4,130 (2)	4,025 (2)	4,235 (2)
Dumaguete-Iligan	545		555		695		840		915				2,095 (2)		2,385 (2)	
Dumaguit-Roxas	180		240		295											
Gensan-Davao	370	440	580	650	715	790	790	925	1,000	1,135			2,415 (2)	2,560(2)	2,835 (2)	3,255 (2)
Gensan- Zamboanga	805	870	930	1,000	1,115	1,180	1,230	1,325	1,510	1,605			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,715 (2)	3,905 (2)
Iligan-Ozamiz	295		370		465											
Iloilo-Davao	1,370	1,495	1,520	1,650	1,755	1,905	1,850	1,990	1,960	2,120			4,355 (2)	4,785 (2)	4,720 (2)	5,050 (2)
Iloilo-Iligan	1,310	1,355	1,355	1,430	1,460	1,525	1,525	1,590	1,590	1,655			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,810 (2)
Iloilo-Ozamiz	1,310	1,355	1,355	1,430	1,460	1,525	1,525	1,590	1,590	1,655			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,810 (2)
Iloilo-Gen. Santos	1,370	1,495	1,520	1,650	1,755	1,905	1,850	1,990	1,960	2,120			4,355 (2)	4,785 (2)	4,720 (2)	5,050 (2)
Iloilo-Cotabato	1,100	1,240	1,440	1,575	1,545	1,665	1,645	1,775	1,760	1,905			3,810 (2)	4,120 (2)	4,140 (2)	4,570 (2)
Iloilo-Zamboanga	830	915	1,050	1,130	1,100	1,180	1,180	1,265	1,370	1,475			3,060 (2)	3,275 (2)	3,380 (2)	3,700 (2)
Masbate-Palompon	395	420	500	525			910	1,015	1,215	1,315			2,635 (2)	2,845 (2)		
Nasipit-Surigao	370	405	430	470	580	615										
Ozamis-Tagbilaran	375	425	425	475	540	600	600	675	795	905			2,020 (2)	2,235 (2)	2,185 (2)	2,460 (2)
Ozamis-Dumaguete	375	425	425	475	540	600	600	675	795	905			2,020 (2)	2,235 (2)	2,185 (2)	2,460 (2)
Tagbilaran-Dipolog	375	425	425	475			600	675	795	905			2,020 (2)	2,235 (2)		
Tagbilaran-Dumaguete	295		370		465											
Zamboanga-Cotabato	570	615	755	795	910	945	1,015	1,055	1,120	1,180			2,645 (2)	2,780 (2)	3,095 (2)	3,220 (2)
Zamboanga-Davao	805	870	930	1,000	1,115	1,180	1,230	1,325	1,510	1,605			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,715 (2)	3,905 (2)

LETTERS

Amendments to Local Government Code

ALLOW me to make some suggestions to the people who are working on the revision of the 1991 Local Government Code. There are certain provisions that need to be repealed, modified or clarified to keep them attuned to the times. The revision should also help answer some questions being posed by local officials and guide them in the performance of their duties and responsibilities.

Among the matters that should be given serious study are:

1) The power of the vice mayor to appoint the officers and employees of the Sanggunian with the concurrence of the majority of its members.

2) The adoption of a mechanism to stop barangay officials from undertaking "ghost projects" in connivance with corrupt employees of some government agencies like the Commission on Audit; overpricing materials, barangay halls and outposts.

3) The organization of various brigades such as Ladies Auxiliary, Disaster/Fire, Traffic, to help minimize if not solve the perennial problems of traffic, rescue and relief operations, garbage, flood and roads maintenance, among other things. This will encourage citizens' participation in various community development programs and projects.

4) Adoption of a performance audit by appropriate government and agencies, which should result in the filing of appropriate charges against officials involved in graft and corrupt practices.

5) Repeal of the recall and people's initiative to save much needed funds. The terms of local officials have already been shortened, thus abusive, corrupt and inefficient officials can be replaced after three years through the electoral process. Besides, the recall process is being abused by some people for political motives and to protect their interests. Let us punish officials through the judicial system while observing their right to due process.

I hope that these suggestions will catch the attention of the Senate's technical working committee.

—SONNY VILLAFUERTE CASTALLA,
95-A General San Miguel,
Sangandaan, Caloocan City

Figures on rights violation bloated

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I have always looked upon your paper with high esteem for its impartiality and balanced reporting. However, I was saddened by the article last Oct. 9, entitled "Rights group assails Defensor for OPLAN 'Gordian Knot.'" It caused severe disappointment among my men and the people of Northern Luzon, who know the actual security picture, because of the alarmingly bloated figures of alleged human rights violations committed by our troops.

It is quite right to entertain opinion especially when they come from well-known human rights advocates like Beverly Longid, who appears to be dedicated to looking after the welfare of the Cordillera people. Nonetheless, her inference on OPLAN "Gordian Knot" as another instrument of the Armed Forces of the Philippines to escalate human rights violations is unfair and unfounded. The figures she dished out to justify her claims about numerous military abuses in Northern Luzon should have been verified with the regional offices of the Commission on Human Rights.

For the information of your readers, OPLAN "Gordian Knot" was conceived to foil the resurgence and prevent further acts of terrorism by the CPP/NPA in the countryside. Records at the CHR office in Region 2 clearly show that only one alleged human rights violation involving the military was recorded since January this year. A certification to this effect, signed by Domingo B. Quilang III, is attached.

I also vehemently deny that we are recruiting minors to the Cafgu. And we never raided any office or house of members of non-government organizations. We strictly adhere to existing policies and guidelines of higher headquarters on the recruitment of regular troops and territorial forces and we obey all other laws, national or international, pertaining to the respect of human rights and civil liberties.

—RODOLFO G. ALVARADO,
Brigadier General, AFP, 5th Infantry (Star)
Division, Philippine Army, Camp Melchor F
dela Cruz, Upi, Gamu, Isabela

Can computers educate?

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

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Through those last two years, I have also had suspicions that the cost of maintaining the website—rental fees from my own pocket, as well as time put in to maintain and update the site—doesn't quite match the benefits in terms of added value to the learning process.

Now comes a report from the British magazine The Economist confirming my fears. A summary of an editorial in that magazine's Oct. 26 issue puts it bluntly: "Teaching with computers is no real help, and sometimes harmful."

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The researchers found out that computers introduced into classrooms had a disruptive effect, tending to split students into "noisy little groups" and reducing their interaction with teachers.

There is an assumption that computers in the classroom allow students to move at their own pace, but again the Israeli study said this was not true, mainly because the educational software tended to be too "one-size-fits-all" rather than being tailored to individual needs. Teachers, it seems, are still better at responding to the differences in students' abilities.

I should explain that my own foray into the use of computers for students is quite different: The computers are meant more as a supplementary teaching method. From the beginning, I have been careful not to make it a major teaching tool, mainly because I am aware that there are still students who do not have regular access to computers.

On the other hand, I did see the potential of the computer for reducing the inequities in terms of access to information. I'd hoped that students who couldn't afford books, magazines and other reference materials could access the information from my website and other sites on the Internet. With "data smog" on the Internet, I also felt it was important to guide students to reliable Internet sites.

Unfortunately, and this is the same problem we have with the attempts to use radio, television and videos, students seem to look at the computer and the Internet more as an entertainment venue rather than an educational tool. Visit our Internet cafés and you will see what I mean: they're packed with students but most of them are playing computer games or are in chat rooms. I wasn't surprised to find the Israeli study noting how the computers disrupted classroom activities since computers are associated with games, rather than education.

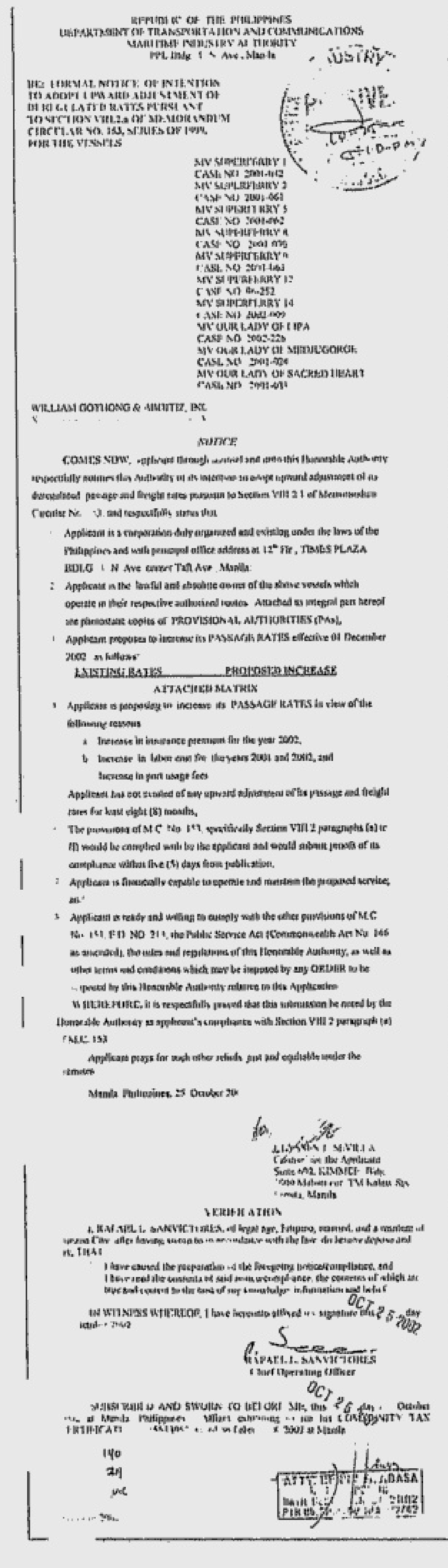
One reason I felt I was wasting time on the websites was that repeatedly I had inserted "bonus questions" in exams, the answers to which were posted on my website. In a recent exam, out of 25 students, only one had apparently visited the site and was therefore able to answer the bonus question. Students just aren't interested in an academic website.

When they do surf the Net as part of school work, the results can be even more disturbing. Many of my fellow teachers are noting a disturbing "cut and paste" trend in student papers, where students just zoom in and cut out something from the Internet, and then paste it into their papers. Even when there is proper attribution of the source, the tendency is still to use large chunks of unprocessed information from the Internet. Rather than challenging students to think more critically, the Internet seem to be encouraging intellectual sloth.

It's not surprising to find students who will go out and do fieldwork and then submit a term paper that consists mainly of stuff cut out from the Internet. The fieldwork data are token, often in the form of photographs taken to prove they went out. This is an example of how computers and the Internet actually block the learning process. Students are now unwilling to put in more time to do real research in terms of observing and listening to the world around them. Instead, they become passive receptacles for canned information, which is repackaged for a term paper.

I am still convinced that computers can play a role in education, especially for more mature students and professionals. Otherwise we have to be very careful with our expectations. Even the best of educational software and Internet websites will be useless if parents and teachers don't teach the kids to evaluate the information.

Computers will not solve our problems in education. The machines and the software can help in the teaching process but ultimately, it's still people—teachers and parents—who can educate, mainly by instilling good learning habits.



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION AND COMMUNICATIONS
MARITIME INDUSTRY AUTHORITY
PPL Bldg. [illegible] Ave., Manila

RE: FORMAL NOTICE OF INTENTION
TO ADOPT UPWARD ADJUSTMENT OF
DEREGULATED RATES PURSUANT
TO SECTION VIII.2.a OF MEMORANDUM
CIRCULAR NO. 153, SERIES OF 1999,
FOR THE VESSELS

MV SUPERFERRY 1
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV SUPERFERRY 2
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV SUPERFERRY 5
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV SUPERFERRY 8
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV SUPERFERRY 9
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV SUPERFERRY 12
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV SUPERFERRY 14
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV OUR LADY OF LIPA
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV OUR LADY OF MEDJUGORJE
CASE NO. [illegible]
MV OUR LADY OF SACRED HEART
CASE NO. [illegible]

WILLIAM GOTHONG & ABOITIZ, INC.

NOTICE

COMES NOW, applicant through counsel and unto this Honorable Authority respectfully notifies this Authority of its intention to adopt upward adjustment of its deregulated passage and freight rates pursuant to Section VIII 2.1 of Memorandum Circular No. [illegible] and respectfully states that:

1. Applicant is a corporation duly organized and existing under the laws of the Philippines and with principal office address at 12th Flr., TIMES PLAZA BLDG. [illegible] Ave. corner Taft Ave., Manila;
2. Applicant is the lawful and absolute owner of the above vessels which operate in their respective authorized routes. Attached as integral part hereof are photostatic copies of PROVISIONAL AUTHORITIES (PAs);
3. Applicant proposes to increase its PASSAGE RATES effective 01 December 2002 as follows:

EXISTING RATES — PROPOSED INCREASE
ATTACHED MATRIX

4. Applicant is proposing to increase its PASSAGE RATES in view of the following reasons:
   a. Increase in insurance premium for the year 2002;
   b. Increase in labor cost for the years 2001 and 2002, and increase in port usage fees

Applicant has not availed of any upward adjustment of its passage and freight rates for least eight (8) months;

5. The provisions of M.C. No. 153, specifically Section VIII 2 paragraphs (a) to (f) would be complied with by the applicant and would submit proofs of its compliance within five (5) days from publication;
6. Applicant is financially capable to operate and maintain the proposed service; and
7. Applicant is ready and willing to comply with the other provisions of M.C. No. 153, P.D. NO. 213, the Public Service Act (Commonwealth Act No. 146 as amended), the rules and regulations of this Honorable Authority, as well as other terms and conditions which may be imposed by any ORDER to be [illegible] by this Honorable Authority relative to this Application.

WHEREFORE, it is respectfully prayed that this submission be noted by the Honorable Authority as applicant's compliance with Section VIII 2 paragraph (a) of M.C. 153.

Applicant prays for such other reliefs, just and equitable under the premises.

Manila, Philippines, 25 October 20[illegible]

[illegible]
Counsel for the Applicant
Suite [illegible], KIMMEH Bldg.
[illegible]
[illegible], Manila

VERIFICATION

I, RAFAEL L. SANVICTORES, of legal age, Filipino, married, and a resident of [illegible] City, after having sworn to in accordance with the law, do hereby depose and say, THAT:

I have caused the preparation of the foregoing [illegible] compliance, and I have read the contents of said [illegible] compliance, the contents of which are true and correct to the best of my knowledge, information and belief.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto affixed my signature this OCT 25 2002 day [illegible] 2002.

RAFAEL L. SANVICTORES
Chief Operating Officer

SUBSCRIBED AND SWORN TO BEFORE ME, this OCT 26 day of October [illegible] at Manila, Philippines, affiant exhibiting to me his COMMUNITY TAX CERTIFICATE [illegible] issued on [illegible] 2002 at Manila.

[illegible]

ATTY. [illegible] ABASA
[illegible] 2002
PTR [illegible] 2002

WG & A PASSAGE MAIN PORT

EFFECTIVE DEC.01, 2002

MLA TO / FROM	SUPER VALUE		MEGA VALUE		TOURIST		BUSINESS CLASS		CABIN		ROYAL CABIN		STATE ROOM		SUITE ROOM	
	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS
Bacolod	1,390	1,475	1,555	1,645	1,640	1,720	1,670	1,755	1,710	1,820	3,635 (2)	3,845 (2)	3,760 (2)	4,095 (2)	4,640 (2)	4,870 (2)
Cagayan de Oro	1,690	1,815	1,840	1,965	1,935	2,120	2,095	2,235	2,245	2,395	4,580 (2)	5,000 (2)	4,790 (2)	5,210 (2)	5,080 (2)	5,500 (2)
Cebu	1,330	1,410	1,480	1,565	1,615	1,670	1,650	1,755	1,815	1,900			4,055 (2) 6,080 (3) 8,105 (4)	4,580 (2) 6,865 (3) 9,155 (4)	4,370 (2) 6,550 (3)	4,790 (2) 7,180 (3)
Coron	925	1,000	1,210	1,280	1,370	1,430			1,745	1,825			4,095 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,265 (2)	4,580 (2)
Cotabato	1,790	1,975	1,910	2,080	2,050	2,215	2,185	2,395	2,355	2,595			5,020 (2)	5,335 (2)	5,420 (2)	5,735 (2)
Davao / Gensan	1,765	1,930	1,910	2,080	2,015	2,165	2,185	2,420	2,420	2,655			5,335 (2)	5,670 (2)	5,440 (2)	6,130 (2)
Dipolog	1,185	1,290	1,555	1,640			1,810	1,970	1,920	2,060			4,000 (2)	4,265 (2)		
Dumaguete	1,330	1,410	1,555	1,640	1,700	1,785	1,785	1,870	1,815	1,920			3,800 (2)	4,075 (2)	4,535 (2)	4,850 (2)
Dumaguit / Roxas	970	1,050	1,085	1,155	1,170	1,255			1,495	1,580			3,330 (2)	3,495 (2)	3,530 (2)	3,695 (2)
Iligan	1,405	1,490	1,480	1,630	1,780	1,920	1,890	2,025	1,985	2,130			4,160 (2)	4,475 (2)	4,370 (2)	4,685 (2)
Iloilo	1,390	1,475	1,555	1,645	1,640	1,720	1,670	1,755	1,710	1,820	3,635 (2)	3,845 (2)	3,760 (2)	4,095 (2)	4,640 (2)	4,870 (2)
Masbate	465	530	565	630			880	945	985	1,050			2,605 (2)	2,940 (2)		
Nasipit/ Butuan	1,640	1,765	1,735	1,850	1,910	2,050	1,960	2,130	2,065	2,290			4,610 (2)	4,895 (2)	4,810 (2)	5,210 (2)
Ozamiz	1,405	1,490	1,480	1,630	1,780	1,920	1,890	2,025	1,985	2,130			4,160 (2)	4,475 (2)	4,370 (2)	4,685 (2)
Palompon	775	840	965	1,030			1,280	1,345	1,385	1,450			3,085 (2)	3,215 (2)		
Puerto Princesa	1,260	1,340	1,420	1,505	1,575	1,660			1,745	1,825			4,095 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,265 (2)	4,580 (2)
Surigao	1,465	1,595	1,630	1,700	1,840	1,910	1,900	1,955	1,990	2,210			4,450 (2)	4,735 (2)	4,525 (2)	4,885 (2)
Tagbilaran	1,330	1,410	1,555	1,640	1,700	1,785	1,785	1,870	1,815	1,920			3,740 (2)	3,905 (2)	4,160 (2)	4,370 (2)
Zamboanga	1,375	1,545	1,525	1,690	1,630	1,815	1,795	1,965	1,965	2,130			4,160 (2)	4,580 (2)	4,475 (2)	5,000 (2)

WG & A PASSAGE INTERPORT RATES

EFFECTIVE DEC.01, 2002

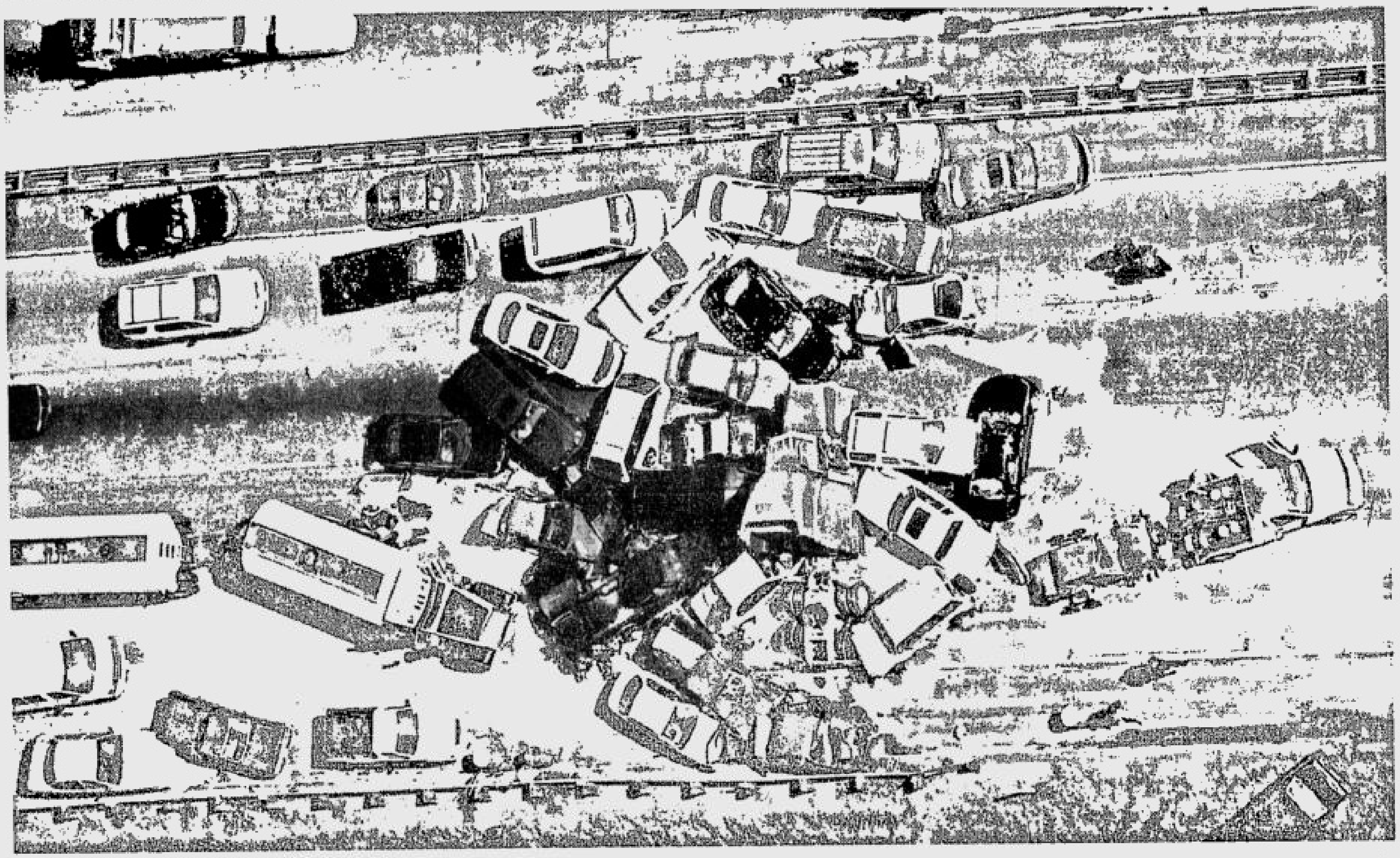
WG&A PASSAGE INTERPORT RATES	SUPER VALUE		MEGA VALUE		TOURIST		BUSINESS CLASS		CABIN		ROYAL CABIN		STATE ROOM		SUITE ROOM	
	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS	W/O MEALS	WITH MEALS
Bacolod-Cagayan	1,360	1,400	1,400	1,445	1,510	1,575	1,575	1,635	1,815	1,955	3,790 (2)	4,055 (2)	4,185 (2)	4,450 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,720 (2)
Bacolod - Iligan	1,285	1,330	1,330	1,405	1,435	1,495	1,495	1,560	1,560	1,625			3,320 (2)	3,530 (2)	3,530 (2)	3,740 (2)
Bacolod-Ozamiz	1,310	1,355	1,355	1,430	1,460	1,525	1,525	1,590	1,590	1,655			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3.595 (2)	3,810 (2)
Cagayan - Dumaguete	545		555		695		840		915				2,095 (2)		2,385 (2)	
Cagayan - Iloilo	1,360	1,400	1,400	1,445	1,510	1,575	1,575	1,635	1,815	1,955	3,790 (2)	4,055 (2)	4,185 (2)	4,450 (2)	4,430 (2)	4,720 (2)
Cebu-Iligan	555	610	645	690	795	890	905	1,000	1,045	1,135			2,450 (2)	2,645 (2)	2,645 (2)	2,890 (2)
Cebu-Nasipit	545	600	635	675	780	870	885	980	1,025	1,115			2,405 (2)	2,595 (2)	2.595 (2)	2,835 (2)
Cebu-Surigao	465	505	520	555	615	655	710	745	790	850			1,775 (2)	1,900 (2)	1,955 (2)	2,090 (2)
Coron-Puerto Princesa	940	1,015	1,230	1,305	1,395	1,455			1,775	1,860			3,915 (2)	4,130 (2)	4,025 (2)	4,235 (2)
Dumaguete-Iligan	545		555		695		840		915				2,095 (2)		2,385 (2)	
Dumaguit-Roxas	180		240		295											
Gensan-Davao	370	440	580	650	715	790	790	925	1,000	1,135			2,415 (2)	2,560(2)	2,835 (2)	3,255 (2)
Gensan- Zamboanga	805	870	930	1,000	1,115	1,180	1,230	1,325	1,510	1,605			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,715 (2)	3,905 (2)
Iligan-Ozamiz	295		370		465											
Iloilo-Davao	1,370	1,495	1,520	1,650	1,755	1,905	1,850	1,990	1,960	2,120			4,355 (2)	4,785 (2)	4,720 (2)	5,050 (2)
Iloilo-Iligan	1,310	1,355	1,355	1,430	1,460	1,525	1,525	1,590	1,590	1,655			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3.595 (2)	3,810 (2)
Iloilo-Ozamiz	1,310	1,355	1,355	1,430	1,460	1,525	1,525	1,590	1,590	1,655			3,380 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,595 (2)	3,810 (2)
Iloilo-Gen. Santos	1,370	1,495	1,520	1,650	1,755	1,905	1,850	1,990	1,960	2,120			4,355 (2)	4,785 (2)	4,720 (2)	5,050 (2)
Iloilo-Cotabato	1,100	1,240	1,440	1,575	1,545	1,665	1,645	1,775	1,760	1,905			3,810 (2)	4,120 (2)	4,140 (2)	4,570 (2)
Iloilo-Zamboanga	830	915	1,050	1,130	1,100	1,180	1,180	1,265	1,370	1,475			3,060 (2)	3,275 (2)	3,380 (2)	3,700 (2)
Masbate-Palompon	395	420	500	525			910	1,015	1,215	1,315			2,635 (2)	2,845 (2)		
Nasipit-Surigao	370	405	430	470	580	615										
Ozamis-Tagbilaran	375	425	425	475	540	600	600	675	795	905			2,020 (2)	2,235 (2)	2,185 (2)	2,460 (2)
Ozamis-Dumaguete	375	425	425	475	540	600	600	675	795	905			2,020 (2)	2,235 (2)	2,185 (2)	2,460 (2)
Tagbilaran-Dipolog	375	425	425	475			600	675	795	905			2,020 (2)	2,235 (2)		
Tagbilaran-Dumaguete	295		370		465											
Zamboanga-Cotabato	570	615	755	795	910	945	1,015	1,055	1,120	1,180			2,645 (2)	2,780 (2)	3,095 (2)	3,220 (2)
Zamboanga-Davao	805	870	930	1,000	1,115	1,180	1,230	1.325	1,510	1,605			3,380 (2)	3.595 (2)	3,715 (2)	3.905 (2)

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

The WORLD

Editor Luverne B. Gueco

Bashir files wrongful arrest lawsuit



CALIFORNIA FREEWAY SMASHUP

Wrecked vehicles block the southbound lanes of the Long Beach Freeway, in Long Beach, Calif., on Nov. 3. Nearly 200 cars and big-rig trucks collided on the fogbound freeway, injuring dozens of people, nine critically, and closing the highway for hours.

AP

JAKARTA—Lawyers for an Indonesian Muslim cleric suspected of terrorism went to court Monday to challenge his arrest, saying he was being held solely on the word of an alleged al-Qaida operative.

Lawyers for Abu Bakar Bashir filed a lawsuit against police claiming his arrest on Oct. 19 was illegal. Judges at South Jakarta district court were to rule within a week.

About 80 students rallied in support of Bashir outside the US Embassy and the local United Nations offices Monday. "Set Abu Bakar free," read a sign carried by one of them.

In a separate demonstration, about 20 Bashir supporters rallied briefly in front of the Australian Embassy to protest the treatment of Muslims in Australia, where federal agents raided the homes of Indonesian nationals as part of an anti-terror crackdown.

"The arrest of Abu Bakar Bashir was only based on information from Omar al-Faruq, whose identity is unclear," chief lawyer Adnan Buyung Nasution said after the court hearing in which the cleric was not present.

Al-Faruq, an alleged Southeast Asian operative for the al-Qaida network, has implicated Bashir in terrorist operations in Indonesia—including a series of church bombings on Christmas Eve 2000 and a plot to assassinate Megawati Sukarnoputri before she became president.

Bashir, 64, is in custody at the Jakarta police hospital after being forcibly moved last week from another hospital in the central Java city of Solo, where he runs an Islamic boarding school.

Police questioned him Saturday but he refused to answer anything apart from basic questions until they meet a series of conditions he has imposed.

Lawyer Achmad Michdan said Bashir refused to respond to allegations by Singapore and Malaysia that he is the spiritual leader of the Jemaah Islamiah regional terror network.

Michdan said Bashir also refused to talk about his move to Malaysia many years ago or past brushes with the law in Indonesia.

The militant Muslim cleric demanded that police suspend his detention status.

Bashir also wants the police to apologize to Indonesian Muslim leaders and to a Muslim hospital in Central Java, which they damaged Monday as they tried to bring him to Jakarta, Michdan said.

He said Bashir also demanded that police bring Al-Faruq to Indonesia so he can confront him.

Al-Faruq was arrested in June in Indonesia and is now in US custody. He is believed held at a US military base in Afghanistan.

Indonesian police questioned him last month. Bashir has repeatedly denied knowing Al-Faruq or having assisted him in any way.

Indonesia has been under intense international pressure to crack down on radical Islamic groups following the Oct. 12 bombing in the resort island of Bali, which killed at least 200 people.

Bashir has not been named as a suspect in the Bali blast but there are suspicions that Jemaah Islamiah may have been involved.

Investigators probing the bombing are checking lists of Indonesian explosives experts including those in the military, I Made Mangku Pastika, the head of the police investigation, said Monday.

"That's standard procedure," he said. He declined to say how many explosives experts are in the country.

AFP

Cambodia hostage drama mars Asean meet

PHNOM PENH—A hostage crisis in a remote part of Cambodia ended late Sunday with four people killed, embarrassing the government and drawing vital security resources away from the capital on the eve of a major international summit.

As leaders from 15 nations began gathering in Phnom Penh for the Association of Southeast Asian Nations summit, the nation's top policeman was forced to leave the city and fly more than 400 km to the hostage scene, a former Khmer Rouge stronghold.

One man was killed and at least six others were taken hostage when four gunmen raided a hospital clinic in northwest Banteay Meanchey province near dusk Saturday, witnesses said.

News of the drama did not break for almost 24 hours, shortly after which 100 elite police and the kidnappers, armed with assault rifles, exchanged gunfire.

Witnesses and police said the siege began when two gunmen entered the clinic and demanded cash. A maid then sneaked out and alerted police, who rushed to the scene.

The drama ended Sunday with all the hostages freed unharmed. One soldier was killed, two of the kidnappers committed suicide and the other two gave themselves up, witnesses said.

"The situation is over, completely over, and the kidnappers, they killed themselves," Banteay Meanchey Deputy Governor An Sum said. "We tried very hard to call them out but they did not come out."

Cambodian authorities had vowed to end the incident quickly, with many regional leaders already in Phnom Penh for the two-day summit that begins Monday.

Sources said the nation's top policeman, Gen. Sao Sokha, was dispatched to Russea Kroak, a village in a former Khmer Rouge area.

More than 1.7 million people died during the Khmer Rouge's brutal four-year reign that ended in 1979 and their resistance movement dragged on into the 1990s.

The hostage drama embarrassed the government just when their security operations were reaching a peak for the Asean summit.

Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi was one of the international leaders due to fly into Cambodia on Sunday as the drama was unfolding, with his Chinese and Malaysian counterparts, Zhu Rongji and Mahathir Mohamad, already here.

AFP

6 suspected militants killed in Yemen car explosion

SAN'A, Yemen— Six suspected Muslim militants were killed Monday in a car explosion, a security official said.

The official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said the blast occurred at dawn in the northern province of Marib, about 160 km northwest of the capital San'a.

"Investigators haven't been able to identify the bodies yet but given the magnitude of the explosion, they believe the men belonged to a radical Islamic group," the official said, without elaborating.

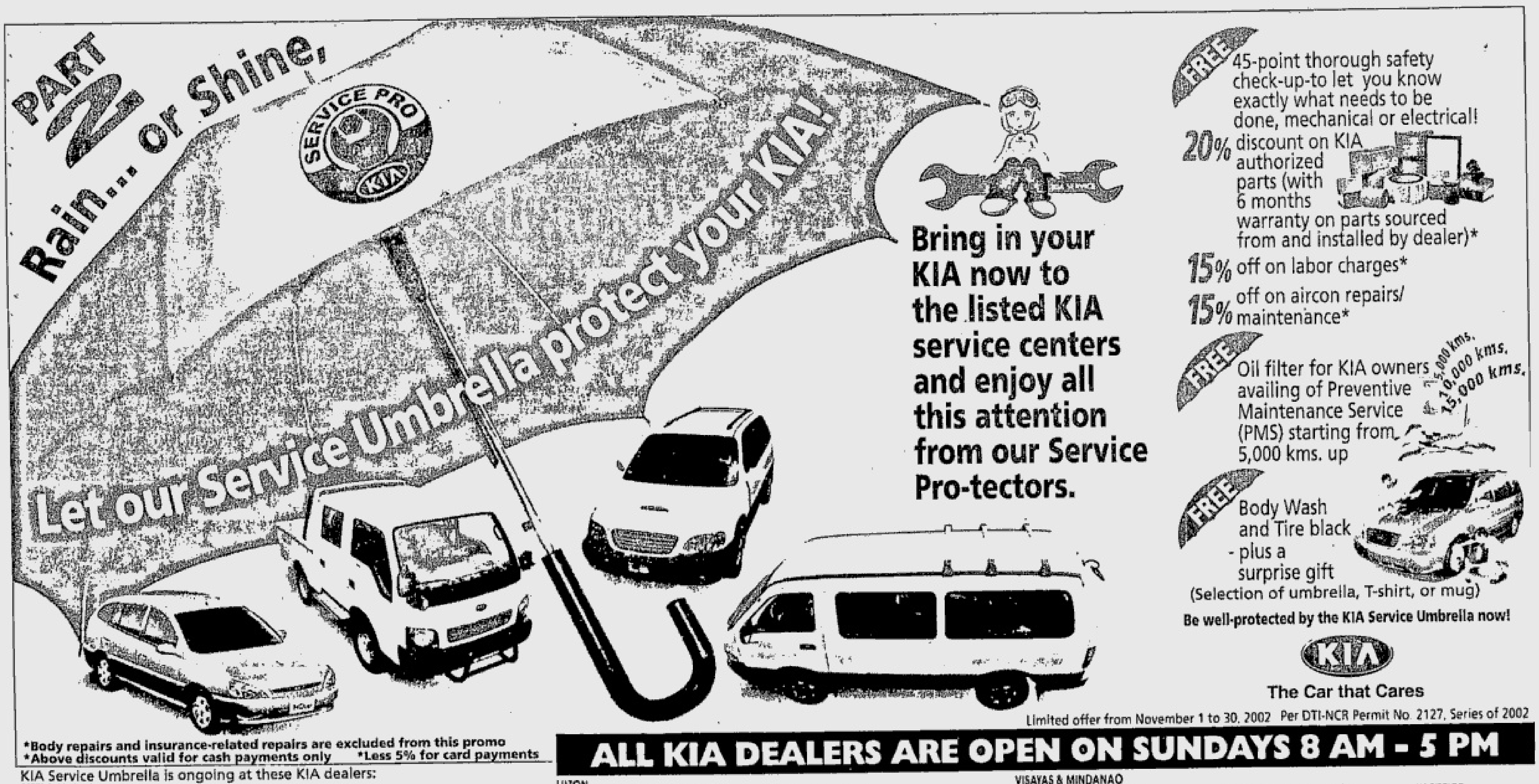
It was unclear how the blast happened. The official said the car was moving when it exploded, but he did not say if the blast might have occurred accidently while the explosives were being transported.

On Sunday, a helicopter carrying US oil company employees came under small-arms fire just after takeoff, forcing an emergency landing at San'a airport that slightly injured two people.

Beyond tribal disputes, Yemen long has tolerated Muslim extremists. It is also the ancestral homeland of Osama bin Laden, whose al-Qaida terror network is blamed for the Sept. 11 attacks and the October 2000 attack on the USS Cole in Yemen that killed 17 US sailors.

Last month, a blast caused by an explosive-laden boat crippled a French oil tanker off Yemen, killing a Bulgarian crew member and spilling 90,000 barrels of crude oil.

AP



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KIA MARIKINA (DELTA MOTOR SALES CORP.)
332 Sumulong Highway Brgy. San Isidro, Cainta, Rizal Tel. 682-8580 - 81 Telefax 682-8539
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222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave., Q. C. (near St. Luke's Hospital) Tels. 721-8456•721-8465•721-8448•4113406

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KIA PAMPANGA (TRADERS AUTOCENTER, INC.)
Gapan Olongapo Road, San Fernando, Pampanga Tels. (045) 961-1485•(045) 961-3926•961-1486 Cell No. (0912) 330-3231

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Amnesty Int'l accuses Israel of war crimes in Jenin, Nablus

JERUSALEM—Israel committed war crimes, including unlawful killings, in Jenin and Nablus during a broad military offensive in those West Bank cities earlier this year, Amnesty International said Monday.

The Israeli military said the offensive was launched in self-defense, in response to Palestinian terror attacks on Israeli civilians.

In a report titled "Israel and the Occupied Territories: Shielded from Scrutiny—IDF Violations in Jenin and Nablus," Amnesty said there was "clear evidence that some of the acts committed by the Israel Defense Forces during Operation Defense Shield were war crimes."

Israeli carried out "unlawful killings, torture and ill-treatment of prisoners, wanton destruction of hundreds of homes," according to Amnesty.

Soldiers also blocked access to ambulances and denied humanitarian assistance, leaving the wounded and dead lying in the streets for days, and used Palestinians as "human shields" while searching for suspected militants, Amnesty said.

"Up to now, the Israeli authorities have failed in their responsibility to bring to justice the perpetrators of serious human rights violations," the Amnesty report said.

Human Rights Watch, a New York-based human rights group, said in a report released last week that plotters and perpetrators of Palestinian suicide attacks against Israeli civilians were guilty of "crimes against humanity," and that Yasser Arafat hadn't done enough to deter them.

Israel launched a West Bank offensive on March 29 after a Palestinian suicide bomber killed 29 Israelis. Jenin was the site of the heaviest fighting—52 Palestinians and 23 Israeli soldiers were killed.

The Israeli military said the full Amnesty report had not been submitted and it would respond when it received the complete document. However, it noted that there was a peak in Palestinian attacks against Israelis in March and the Army, in carrying out its war on "terrorist infrastructure," made good on "Israel's basic right to defend its citizens."

"This terrorist infrastructure was established in the heart of an innocent Palestinian population that served as a cover. The Army acted in determination against this infrastructure but with the necessary care due to the fact that the operation was taking place in the heart of a (civilian) population," the Army said in a statement.

Palestinian Cabinet Secretary Ahmed Abdel Rahman applauded the report's accusations against Israel. *AP*

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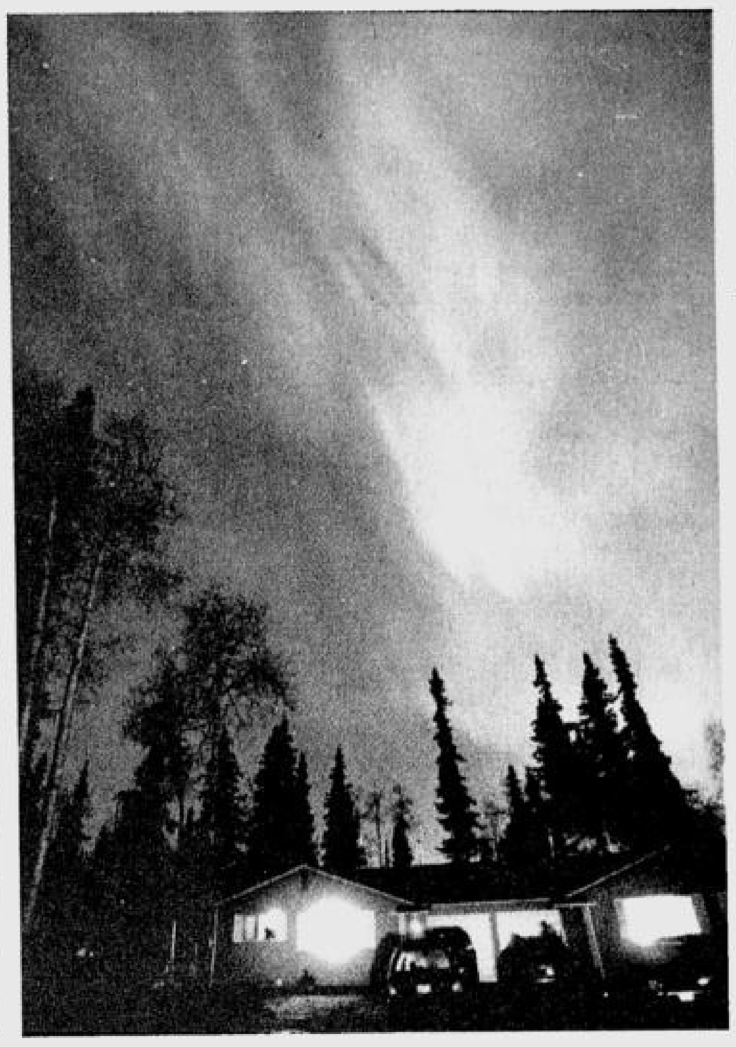

NORTHERN LIGHTS AP

The northern lights, also known as aurora borealis, shine on Saturday in Kenai, Alaska. The magnificent display in shades of green, blue, red, yellow and violet lasted several hours.

Islamic party wins Turkey elections

ANKARA—A party with Islamic roots won overwhelming victory in parliamentary elections and quickly moved to soothe worries it would overturn Turkey's pro-Western stance, saying it had no intention to "challenge the world."

The Justice and Development Party won a parliamentary majority in Sunday's elections—the first time in 15 years that any party has been in a position to govern alone—largely due to voter fury over a devastated economy.

The win could concern Turkey's powerful and firmly secular military, which in the past forced a pro-Islamic government from power. However, the victorious Justice party stressed it didn't want confrontation.

At a huge celebration at party headquarters, leader Recep Tayyip Erdogan said: "We will not spend our time dizzy with victory. We will build a Turkey where common sense prevails."

On the sidelines, a party official called on supporters not to shout religious slogans such as "Allah is Great!"

With 99.9 percent of ballot boxes counted, Erdogan's party had 34 percent support, the semi-official Anatolia news agency reported. The center-left Republican People's Party had 19 percent, Anatolia reported.

The elections also marked the ouster of Turkey's longtime dominant political class. The party of outgoing Prime Minister Bulent Ecevit won only one percent of the vote and his coalition partners were below the 10 percent threshold needed for entry into parliament.

The results mean that the Justice party and the Republicans would divvy up all 550 seats. Projections by Anatolia showed the Justice party taking 363 seats—enough to rule without a coalition—and the Republicans winning 178. *AP*

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WORLDBRIEFS

Ferry sinks; 5 dead

JAKARTA—A ship packed with scores of people heading home for the Muslim fasting month of Ramadan sank in central Indonesia, killing at least five passengers, officials said Monday. Emergency vessels and local fishermen picked up 117 survivors after the ferry sank Sunday near Ambon and a search continued for additional survivors, police Lt. Tony Sugadra said. But police had no estimate for the number of missing people, because there were no firm reports about the total number of people aboard. Many survivors may have swam ashore. *AP*

Spoof sparks panic

WELLINGTON—A spoof story claiming the United States was planning to invade the tiny Pacific state of Kiribati sparked panic and prompted the government there to air public reassurances the country would not be overrun by US forces. The US Embassy in Wellington said Monday it was unfortunate the story on a New Zealand satirical website, www.spinner.co.nz, was taken as accurate. The New Zealand-based website also attacked Kiribati President Teburoro Tito, who is currently campaigning ahead of a Nov. 29 general election. Reportedly upset by the article, Tito had his office issue a series of public broadcasts assuring the population that the planned "invasion" story was not true. *AP*

Close US fight

WASHINGTON—Americans go to the polls on Tuesday with an agonizingly close battle for Congress expected and the economy dominating campaigning, even though a showdown with Iraq is looming. George W. Bush, the Republican president, and rival Democrat leaders have spent the final days frantically urging supporters just to get out to vote, amid predictions of a low turnout which could further complicate the struggle for control of the Senate and House of Representatives. All 435 House of Representative seats, 34 of the 100 Senate seats and 36 state governor posts are on the line. Defeat for the Republicans would hinder Bush's policy agenda and could harm his presidential re-election campaign in 2004. *AFP*

'Terrible evil'

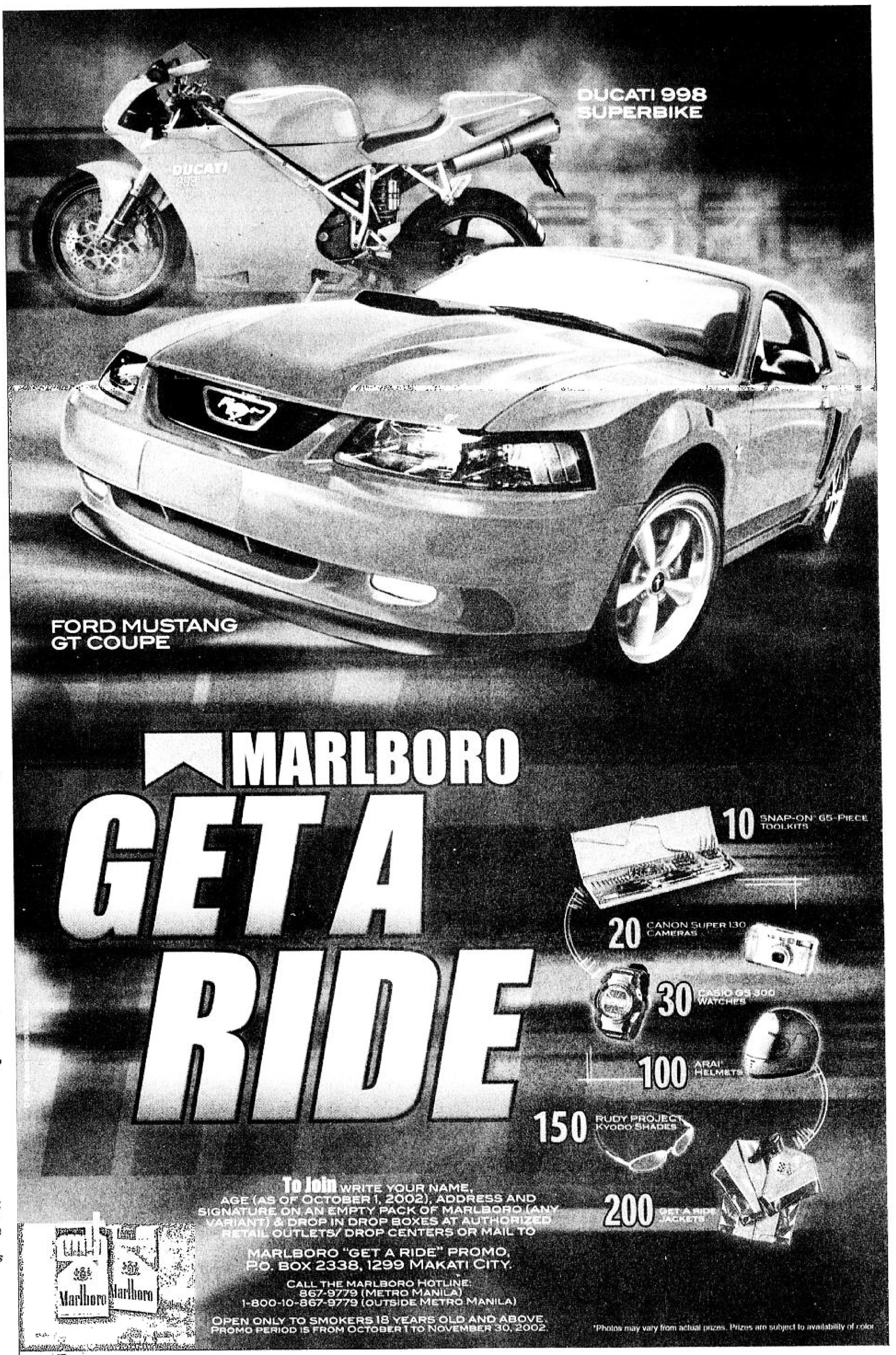
BOSTON—Cardinal Bernard Law acknowledged that some of his decisions regarding priests were wrong, and said he has a "far deeper awareness of this terrible evil" of clergy sexual abuse than he did 10 months ago, when the scandal first broke. Victims of abuse, with whom Law recently met, urged him to speak out more publicly and frequently. He agreed, saying Sunday at Mass at the Cathedral of the Holy Cross that he was trying to "honor the spirit" of that meeting. "As I have listened personally to the stories of men and women who have endured such abuse, I have learned that some of these consequences include lifelong struggles with alcohol and drug abuse, depression, difficulty in maintaining relationships and, sadly, suicide," he said. "I acknowledge my own responsibility for decisions which led to intense suffering." *AP*

Quake rocks Japan

TOKYO—An earthquake measuring 5.6 on the open-ended Richter scale struck Japan's southern main island of Kyushu on Monday but there were no immediate reports of damage or injuries. The quake, which struck at 1.36 p.m., was centered in the Pacific Ocean off Oita Prefecture, about 800 km southwest of Tokyo. Authorities in the hot springs resort of Oita said the there were no reports of damage or casualties caused by the quake. "There has been no disruption in local rail and road traffic," said an Oita city official. *Reuters*

Alaska temblor

ANCHORAGE, Alaska—A major earthquake rocked a sparsely populated area of interior Alaska, damaging supports to the trans-Alaska oil pipeline and opening two-meter cracks in highways and roads. One person was reported injured. The magnitude 7.9 quake, centered 145 km south of Fairbanks, was strongly felt in Anchorage, about 435 km to the south. It hit Sunday at 1:13 p.m. Alaska Standard Time, said Bruce Turner of the West Coast and Alaska Tsunami Warning Center. "It shook for a good 30 seconds," Turner said. It did not generate a tsunami, he said. *AP*



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CANON CAMERA CELEBRATES A DECADE OF EXCELLENCE

The year 2002 marks a historic year for Super East Asia Enterprises, Inc., the exclusive Distributor of Canon Cameras in the Philippines as it celebrates its tenth year of promoting photography in the Philippines with the theme "CANON WEEK 2002:A Decade of Excellence" on November 5-11, 2002 at the Ground Floor, Ayala Mall, Glorietta Center in Makati City.

Looking back, this annual event has become a tradition among photography buffs. Canon Week has always been a venue for showcasing photo exhibit, getting the best camera deal, attending free lectures and workshop and advocating social concerns. In fact, Canon has been monumental in promoting the Philippine photography amongst consumers. It has captured in various aspects the beautiful and colorful life of the Filipinos as well as helped develop the skills of our talented photographers today.

As with the previous years, consumers can expect on-site only privileges as evident in the Ten Activities that highlight this momentous affair. Among them is the launching of the "Canon and a Tree" program wherein part of the sales goes to ABS CBN Bantay Kalikasan "Save the La Mesa" project; free workshops by pro-photographers Vic Sison and Ibarra Deri and camera clinic where Canon camera owners will be treated to free computerized check up while they wait at the Krups Coffee corner with their free cup of coffee.

No less than Honorable Makati City Mayor Jejomar Binay, together with Miss Earth Philippines 2002 April Rose Perez, Super East President William Sia and friends & supporters from Canon Marketing Phils., Bantay Kalikasan, Krups, Bonifacio Trees & Greens and Little Archers International School shall lead the Opening Ceremony at 4:00 PM today.

CANON CAMERA ALWAYS ON THE LEAD

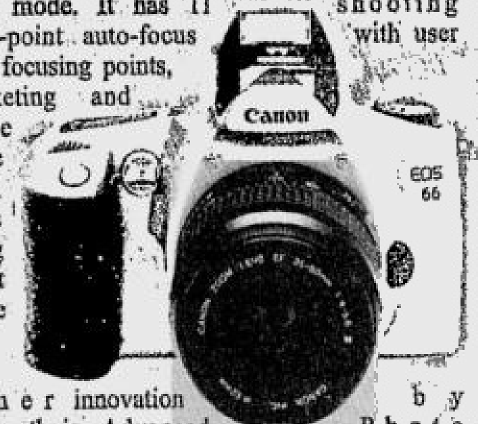
Through the years, Canon has managed to fully entrench its corporate philosophy of "kyosei" or "bayanihan" to us Filipinos - which means "living and working for the common good". From its inception, the company began its conscious effort to work for the good of its entire constituency.

Super East Asia, the Philippine exclusive distributor of Canon Cameras, has devoted significant energy in promoting the art of photography especially among the Filipinos. It has been a vision that each Filipino household owns at least one Canon camera to be used in capturing life's special highlights. Canon envisions that no sporting event, pageant, or family affair is complete without a Canon camera. That is why Canon developed a wide range of products that would suit the varying needs of their users.

Apart from cutting-edge designs and features, diversity of social, cultural, economic and ecological considerations play an integral part of the product development process to ensure that all Canon products rise above these barriers.

Always the innovator, Canon has been ahead in pioneering the latest features in today's camera. All Canon cameras, from the regular compact ones to more high-tech digital models, are remarkable on their own. Photography has been made simpler, easier and more interesting with the development of advanced systems for cameras. Canon cameras' distinctive features allow its users to explore the world of photography and let their creativity run free.

SLR photography has never been the same ever since Canon introduced the EOS systems. EOS stands for Electro Optical System - it offers the convenience of an automatic camera yet gives its users the flexibility and creativity inherent to SLR cameras. It caters to a wide range of users such as professionals, serious amateurs, and novice photographers. The EOS range provides a wide dimension in SLR photography. Take EOS 66 camera for example. This camera takes all levels of photo-enthusiasts to enjoy manual or automatic mode. It has 11 shooting modes, 3-point auto-focus with user selectable focusing points, auto-bracketing and multiple exposure control and is being offered at reasonable price.



Another innovation by Canon is their Advanced Photo System (APS) through the IXUS line. This tiny yet elegant camera packs the most powerful and modern features found in a camera today.

True to its vision, Canon paved the way to the mass appreciation of photography by introducing Canon Prima BF 800. It is affordable, easy to use, and yet still maintains the high quality Canon has always been known. It is the answer to the need for every household to own a camera to capture its special occasions.

Check out the complete line-up of camera at the Ground Floor, Ayala Mall in Glorietta and find out what's the best camera for you. There's always a CANON for everyone!

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CANON AND A TREE

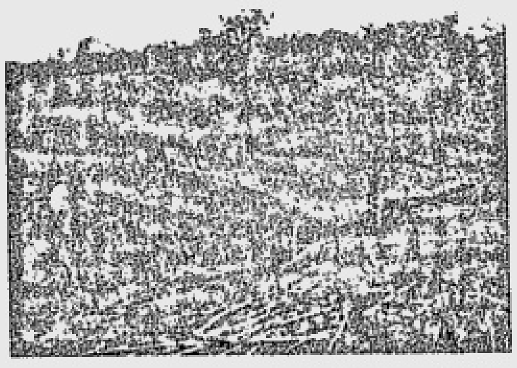
Canon ties up with Bantay Kalikasan

Canon, the leader in cameras, takes pride in their pioneering efforts in recognizing the importance of capturing the beauty of nature as well as preserving it for the future generations.
This year, in celebration of their 10th year anniversary, Super East Asia has teamed up with Bantay Kalikasan, another pioneer in nature-conservation. Together, they are envisioning a responsibly protected and preserved Philippine environment where future generations of Filipinos can lead better quality of life.

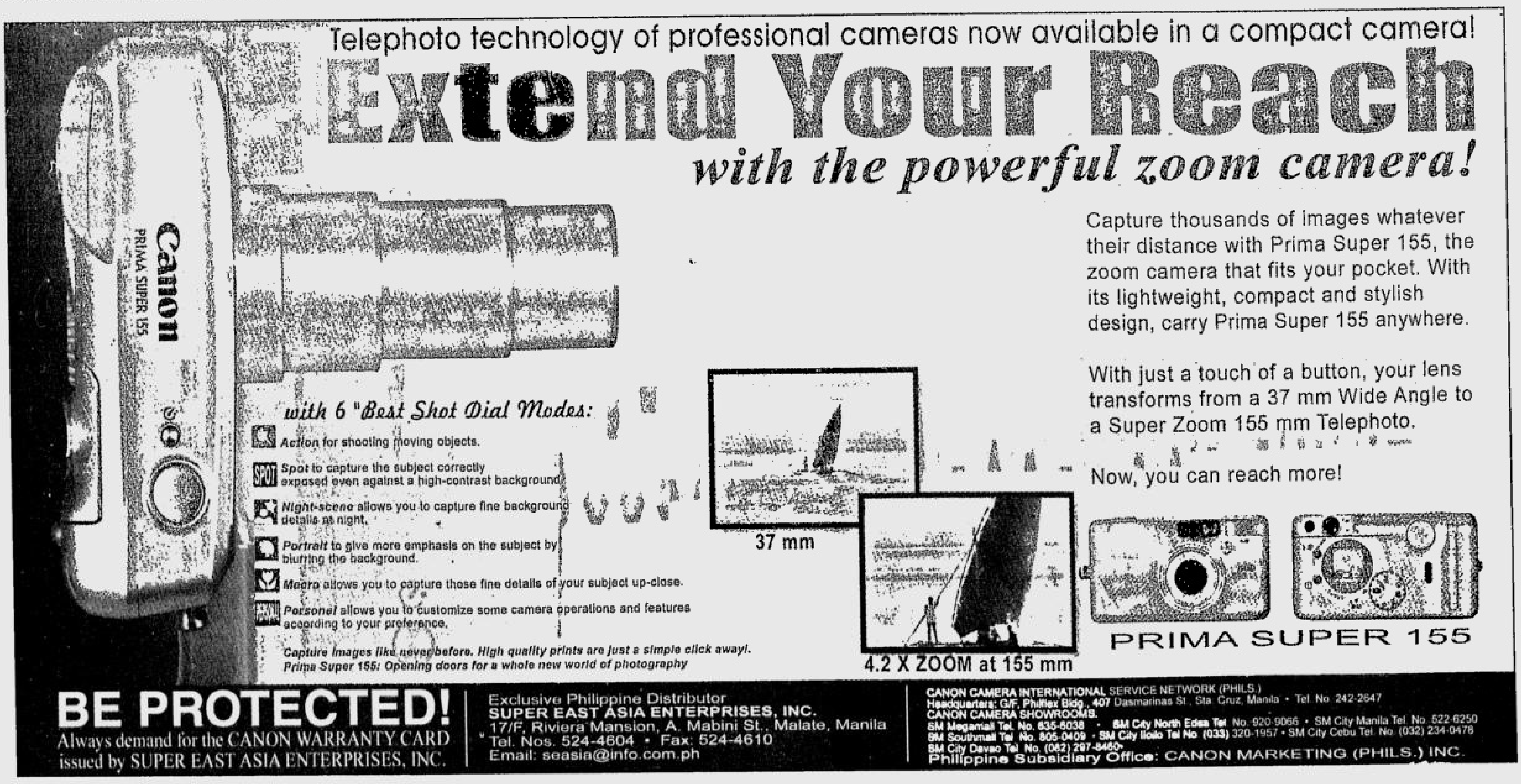
The 2,700- hectare MWSS La Mesa Watershed serves as the water source of major Philippine municipalities including the cities of Quezon, Marikina and Caloocan and the province of Rizal. At present, unabated watershed destruction has caused water crisis and flooding in the metro.

Bantay Kalikasan is working hard to preserve La Mesa Watershed. The immediate objective is to reforest 200 hectares of denuded areas of the watershed each year or a total of some 1,200 hectares open areas over five years to ensure the sustainability of the water source of Metro Manila. The long-term goal is to convert the La Mesa watershed into a huge nature park and bio-diversity reserve for educational purposes and appreciation particularly of school children and of the general public. One reason for the very low environmental consciousness of people in Metro Manila is because of their dissociation from nature. The establishment of a nature center within Metro Manila may be a good start to regain this lost Filipino value. Individual and corporate partners are being tapped to raise funds for the project.

Sharing this concern, Super East has forged an alliance with Bantay Kalikasan as benefactor of each camera sale. Thus, for every purchase of a Canon camera during the Canon Week, a portion of the purchase goes to the Bantay Kalikasan Save the La Mesa project.



La Mesa Dam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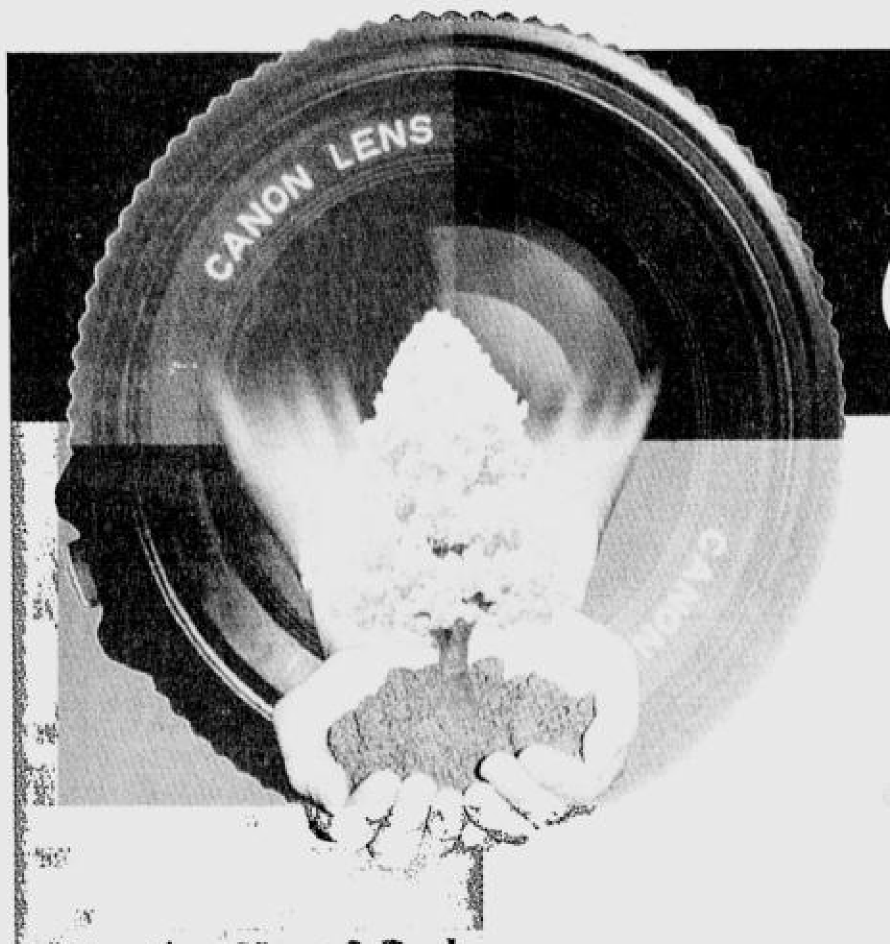

Canon Week 2002

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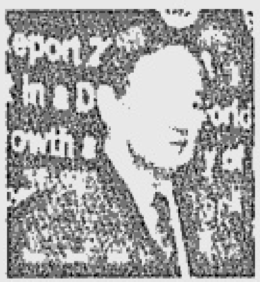
- Decade of Photographic Excellence
- Launch of Canon & A Tree
- Canon Week Privilege
- On-site Trade In Promo
- Excellent Family Photo Contest
- Photo Workshop (Nov. 7,8,9)
- Canon & A Tree Day (Sunday, Nov. 10)
- Picture Perfect (A Photo Opportunity)

CANON AND A TREE DAY

On Sunday, November 10, 2002, families are invited to celebrate the "Canon and A Tree Day" where different activities are scheduled such as film showing by Bantay Kalikasan, an entertainment show from kids from Center for Pop Music Phils., Story telling by Little Archers School and a photo opportunity in the picture-perfect landscape created specially for this celebration by Bonifacio Trees and Greens.

To show his support to people and organization like Canon and Super East, Department of Environment and Natural Resources Secretary Alvarez shall be the Special Guest of this culminating event.

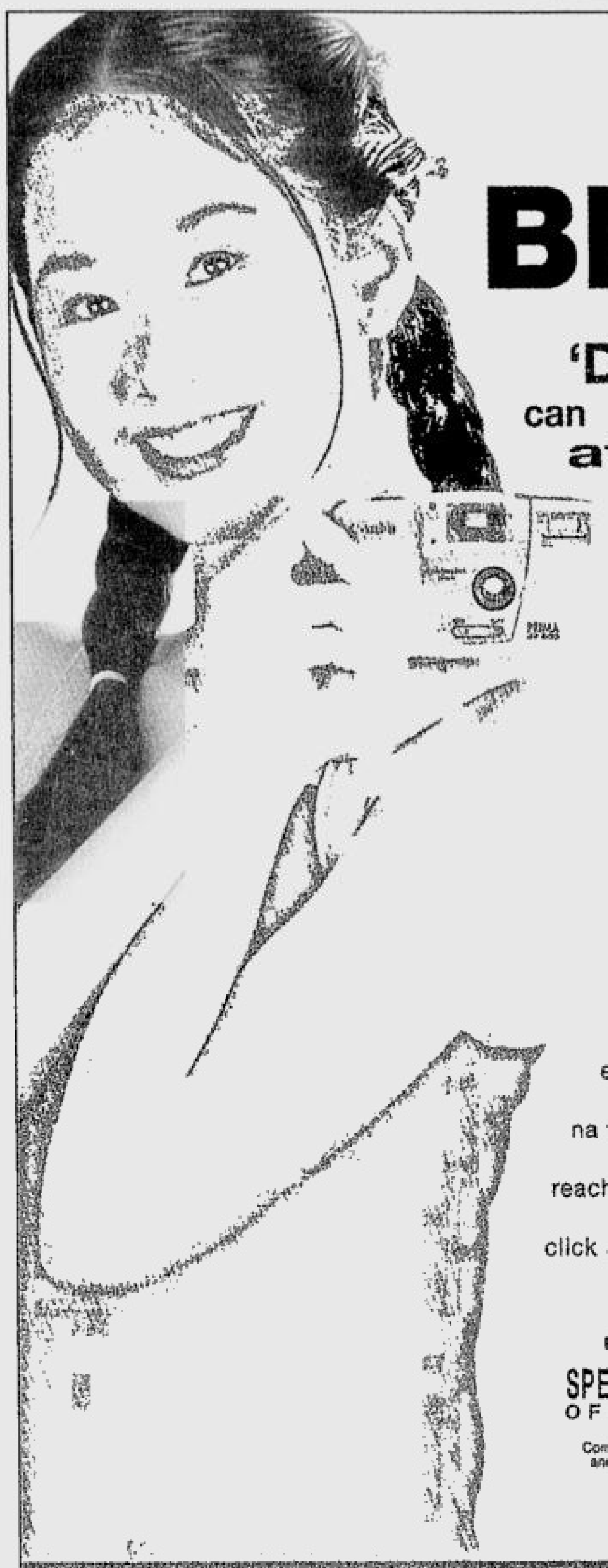


DENR Sec. Heherson Alvarez

DENR Secretary Alvarez has been known for his valuable support in environment advocacies such as this.

Program shall start at 3:00 PM.
Interested parties may visit the Customer Service booth for more details.

Canon



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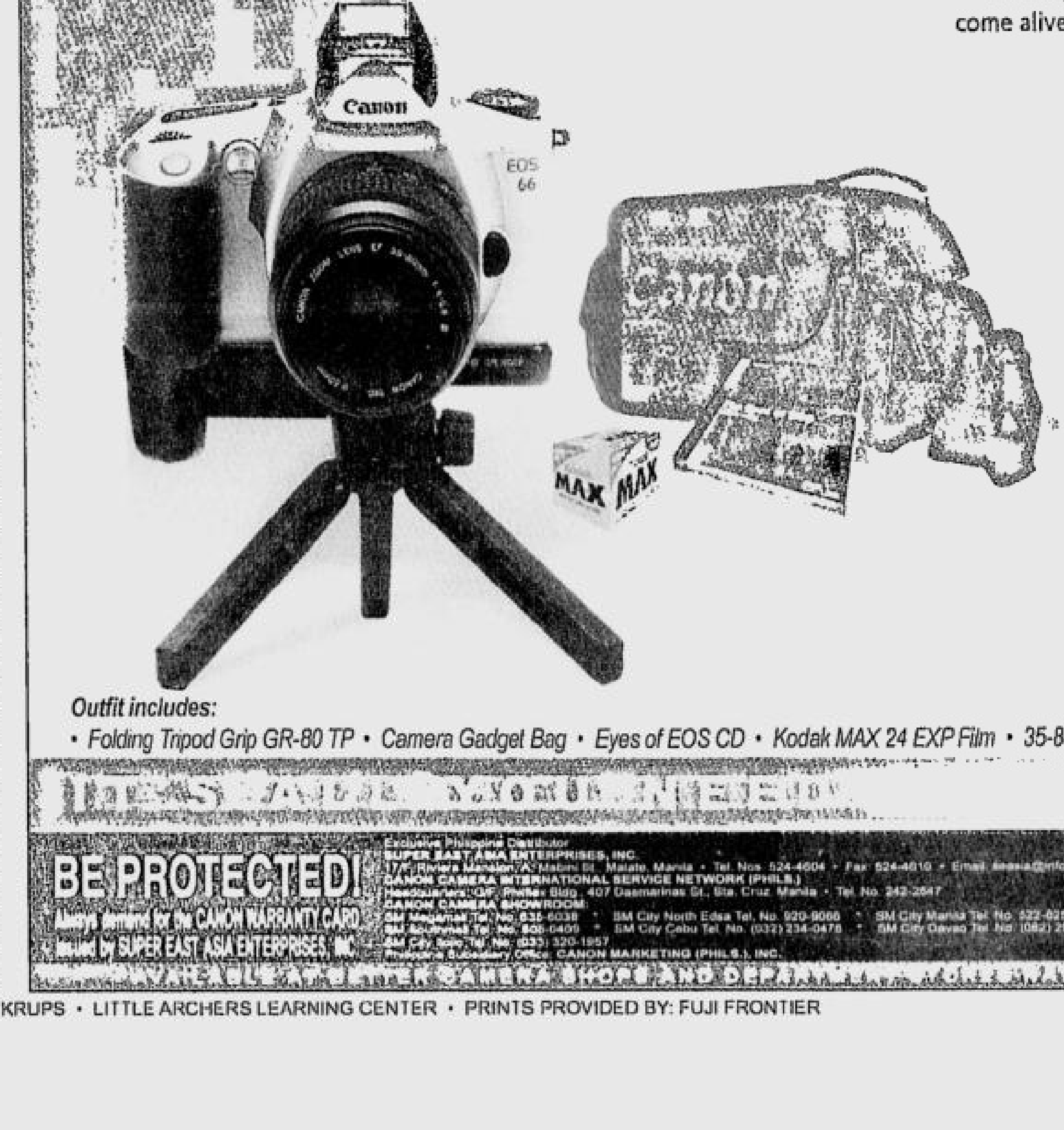

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Legazpi City
Tel. No. (052) 820-8402
Fax No. (052) 820-1274
E-mail: inq_bicol@inquirer.com.ph

Across the NATION
Assistant Editor Tony Bergonia

VISAYAS BUREAU
c/o Cebu Daily News
18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
Tel. Nos. (032) 233-0346/233-0349
Fax No. (032) 232-9938
E-mail: pdivis@skyinet.net

MINDANAO BUREAU
FEP Printing Corp. Bldg.
Ma-a Road, Davao City
Tel. No. (082)244-1770 to 71
Fax No. (082)244-1771
E-mail: pdiminda@dv.weblinq.com

Mayors urged to build spy networks

By Ma. Diosa Labiste
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Mayors in Iloilo province were asked to become "top intelligence officers" on their own right and help build barangay spy networks against robbers, cattle rustlers, illegal gamblers and other syndicates.

In a Provincial Peace and Order Council (PPOC) meeting last Oct. 25, Iloilo Gov. Niel Tupas urged mayors in 42 towns and a component city to lead the fight against "crimes and terrorism."

"The mayors are in the best position to do that because they have direct contact with their people," said Tupas.

Senior Supt. Juan Mabugat, Iloilo police director, asked the mayors to create barangay intelligence networks that recruit spies.

The latter would report to police and town officials any suspicious activities or persons in the locality.

Chief Supt. Marcelo Navarro, police director for Western Visayas, asked the mayors to use their calamity funds to set up the intelligence network, arguing that terrorism is also a man-made disaster.

But the mayors said they would wait for the guidelines on the use of calamity funds that local governments set aside for natural disasters like floods and typhoons.

Some mayors were heard grumbling that if Malacañang wants local executives to shoulder the maintenance of peace and order, it should release on time the Internal Revenue Allotment (IRA), the local governments' share of the national taxes collected.

The PPOC meeting brought together mayors, town police chiefs and commanders of police mobile units. Among the issues discussed was the preparation for the implementation of a national identification system.

Of the mayors, only Miagao Mayor Gerardo Flores, a former police general, openly supported the national ID and barangay intelligence network.

He said he already had in his town citizens' volunteer organizations (CVOs) that gather intelligence information in the barangays and have trained themselves to detect bombs.

The funds for CVOs were taken from the town's peace and order council budget.

The PPOC meeting was held after the Department of Interior and Local Government here asked governors and mayors to immediately convene their peace and order councils to update public safety plans.

In a memorandum dated Oct. 24, Local Governments Secretary Jose Lina, asked mayors to give importance to "crime fighting," with emphasis on educating their constituents on how to cope with "terrorist threats in heir barangays."

The memorandum asked CVOs or "barangay tanod" to conduct 24-hour patrols, searches in public places, "in accordance with law," or report suspicious persons and their belongings to police for verification and further investigation.

The volunteers would undergo training to hone their skills in the coming months and become "anti-crime advocates and crime-busters" based in some 42,000 barangays all over the country. The training would be conducted by the Philippine Public Safety College.

Bus owners suspend operations

By Jo Clemente
PDI Central Luzon Desk

TARLAC CITY—The Philippine Rabbit Bus Lines (PRBL) suspended its operations and closed all its business offices yesterday as an ongoing workers' strike entered its sixth day.

Non-striking employees here said the PRBL management decided to temporarily cease operations to safeguard employees as well as company property. Most of the non-striking workers are office based.

Bus drivers and conductors who reported for work on Monday were also advised not to ply their routes, a management source said.

A faction of the Philippine Rabbit Bus Employees Union (PRBEU), led by four members of its executive board, struck last Wednesday to demand from the PRBL management full implementation of their collective bargaining agreement which expired March 2001. They also asked for a renegotiation of a new CBA and the implementation of four wage orders.

Earlier, Rivo Nisce, PRBL chief operating officer, said the company is in financial distress and has been given until February next year to implement the wage orders following approval of an exemption it sought from the regional tripartite wage board.

Nisce also said an intra-labor dispute hampered CBA negotiations.

Striking workers, however, said they did not believe the company was in financial distress.

Luisito Ibarra, the union's secretary for grievance, also lamented that while they were not given the benefits due them, management could afford to fund improvements on PRBL property.

Ibarra also said their intra-labor dispute was far from over as they had appealed the decision of the regional Department of Labor and Employment that declared as illegal the impeachment of union president Jose Gonzales and secretary general Elmer Sese.

Other union members and officials had accused Gonzales and Sese of neglect of duty and of being pro-management.

On Monday, the PRBL management and the striking workers met at the National Conciliation and Mediation Board to discuss the dispute.

JOHNNY [illegible]

WORK AND PLAY
Abaca fiber are hung at the entrepreneurs' backyards where children can help check if they have dried.

Baguio ID very expensive, say IT experts

BAGUIO CITY—How much will President Macapagal-Arroyo's national identification system cost Baguio City?

The proposed Basic City Identification System (Basic ID) ordinance, which the city council will begin debating on Nov. 6, asks residents to pay P50 for an individual population reference card.

Tourists will be asked to pay P20 for the same card.

But information technology experts here said the city government might need to shoulder from P4.5 million to P100 million for the Basic ID database.

Edwin Manaois, the city's IT specialist, said a sophisticated database, which will require extensive memory banks and computer facilities, is the "soul" of a unified identification system.

While such a database will profit from a fixed population reference count, a physical identity card for each Baguio resident will not be necessary, IT experts said.

Councilor Elmer Datuin, the ID measure's proponent, said the city needs the database to consolidate all existing information on a city resident or transient "for tax purposes."

This information can already be drawn from the files of the Government Service Insurance System, the Social Security System and the National Bureau of Investigation, said Manaois, who profiled the technological requirements of a basic ID system for the city council last week.

Incidental information could also be drawn from the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which can provide a person's financial character, and the Pag-Ibig Fund, which can outline a person's housing situation, he said.

In a report, Manaois said the city could invest in a regular card that is controlled by a bar code, or it could finance the development of swipe cards commonly used by banks for automated teller machines.

A third option, and potentially the most expensive, is to issue identity "smart cards," or ID cards using computer hardware to secure information, he said.

The technology complementing a unified ID system is called biometrics, which uses expensive recognition devices that scan an ID holder's fingerprints or iris before it releases information in the database.

"It is important that the data is not compromised. We must control the access to these information, and we should make sure who will be accountable if the information is abused," Manaois said.

"I urged (the mayor) to study it very well. The cost of the most sophisticated ID system (using biometric scans) would cost up to P4.5 million, and we don't want to spend on the cards only to be told that the government wants to use a different system later on."

Jerry Mayona, owner of an online newspaper, said the Baguio database needs a better-financed team of programmers, who would be tasked to merge the existing database of the GSIS, SSS and the NBI.

"Politicians may feel that this is a simple procedure, but developing a data bank design is very hard and very tedious," he said. *Vincent Cabreza, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau*

Filariasis in Albay, Zamboanga alarms health execs

LEGAZPI CITY—Experts from the World Health Organization yesterday expressed alarm over the rise in the number of *filariasis* cases, a communicable disease caused by tiny worms called *Wuchereria bancrofti* and *Brugia malayi*, now stalking the Bicol region.

WHO experts Dr. Jean Marc Olive, Dr. Kelly Butler, Dr. Guilan Biswas, Sally Brown and Noel Isberto were here to observe the cases.

Department of Health officials said *filariasis* is rampant in Bicol, Samar, Leyte and Davao.

In Albay, provincial health officer Dr. Veronica Madulid said the entire province was subjected to immuno-chromatographic testing for *filariasis* last year.

The results revealed that there are about 50 cases in 12 towns. Bacacay had the biggest number, with 13 cases; Jovellar, 11 cases, and Tiwi, six cases.

The other towns with one to four cases each are Rapu-Rapu, Libon, Daraga, Camalig, Manito, Polangui, Sto. Domingo, Guinobatan, Malilipot and Pioduran.

Madulid said seven towns had been declared endemic since 1997. These are Bacacay, Rapu-Rapu, Manito, Oas, Pioduran, Sto. Domingo and Daraga.

She said that if a single case of *filariasis* is identified in a municipality, it is presumed that everybody has it. Thus, they immediately declare the entire municipality as endemic, followed by mass treatment of residents.

DOH Bicol director Garardo Bayugo said the worms could be transferred through mosquito bites.

The *filariasis*-carrying mosquitoes can be found in the leaves of plants like abaca, banana and even *gabi* and *pandan*, and may attack during daytime but more so in the evening, Bayugo said.

He said the disease has no symptoms during its initial stage.

"Only through blood testing can we determine if a person is positive since human blood is the habitat of these tiny *filariasis* worms. And only after a long period of time, about 10 years, can an inflicted person experience the following symptoms: constant fever and colds, headache, herpes, boils in the genitals and armpits, and even sore throat," Bayugo said.

He added that if these symptoms are ignored, the situation might result in the swelling of body organs like arms, feet, breast and testicles.

"And continuously ignoring these symptoms could lead in the enormous enlargement of the affected body parts. An infected scrotum could result in *elephantiasis*," Bayugo warned.

Only two kinds of tablets were found to combat *filariasis*: the *diethyl carbamazine citrate* tablet and *albendazol* tablet. Health experts advised victims to always combine these two tablets to prevent the spread of the killer-bacteria.

Mass treatment in every municipality is the only way the government can prevent the spread of the disease, he said.

In Dipolog City, the Zamboanga del Norte health office had started treatment of Subanens afflicted with *filariasis*.

Dr. Carmencita Icao, provincial health officer, said her office had recorded at least 60 persons afflicted with the disease.

Icao said most of the victims came from Barangays Lipakan, Balubo and Sibud of Roxas town, and several hinterland villages in Jose Dalman and Baliguian towns.

He admitted that the number of cases is alarming, prompting her office to ask experts from the Department of Parasitology of the University of the Philippines and the DOH to conduct blood examination on Subanen *lumad* who showed symptoms of the disease.

Most of those found positive of the disease were male. ***Ronnie Lorejo, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau; Lullie A. Micabalo, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Honasan aide killed

BACOOR, Cavite—A security aide of Sen. Gregorio Honasan was killed by still unidentified armed men while walking on his way home after attending church service in Barangay Zapote 3 here on Sunday.

Sr. Supt. Samuel Pagdilao Jr., Cavite police director, identified the victim as Edgardo Ledesma, 42, a member of the Philippine Navy seal and detailed as one of Honasan's security men prior to the killing.

Ledesma died while under surgical treatment at the Perpetual Help Medical Center due to a lone bullet wound on his neck.

Investigation revealed that Ledesma, together with his wife, Faith, and brother-in-law, Daniel Aguilar, had just attended a church service at the Iglesia ni Kristo chapel.

Upon reaching a vacant lot, the victim was shot at close range by one of the suspects following them.

The suspects then fled on board a blue colored Enduro motorcycle with plate number YH-5528.

Pagdilao said Ledesma was a member of the Reformed the Armed Forces Movement-Young Officers Union that nearly toppled the Aquino government during seven abortive coup attempts in 1987.

Charges were filed against Honasan and other RAM officers who led the military revolt to topple the Aquino government.

Honasan was detained at a ship where Ledesma was among the guards.

After few weeks, Honasan escaped allegedly with the connivance of his guards.

Police are pursuing the suspects. ***Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

ROUNDUP

Suspected rapist slain

DAVAO CITY—Suspected members of the Davao Death Squad (DDS) shot and killed a suspected rapist here on All Saints' Day. Cerilo Lagumbay, 40, of Matina Times Beach, had been arrested on suspicion he raped a four-year-old girl on Oct. 29 at the Emar Beach Resort in Matina District. On Friday, the Talomo police released the suspect after no charges were filed against him. Two hours later, suspected DDS hitmen near the Matina community police outpost shot him in the head with a .45-caliber pistol. The victim was the sixth person gunned down by suspected vigilantes in the past few days. In Hagonoy, Davao del Sur, two persons were hurt after a grenade exploded on All Saints' Day. Reports reaching the Southern Mindanao Police Command said Felino Boy Reoyan, 48, a driver of the Department of Public Work and Highways and a resident of Barangay Balutakay had thrown the grenade after a heated discussion with Arnel Babao. Babao and Evangeline, the suspect's wife was injured in the blast.

Dennis Jay C. Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Drivers seek fare hike

DAVAO CITY—Jeepney drivers and operators belonging to the Transport of Southern Mindanao for Solidarity, Independence and Nationalism (Transmision) here demanded a fare hike because of oil price increases. Frank Kempis, Transmision deputy secretary general, said in a statement that prices of petroleum products have gone up 10 times since March this year but no fare increase had been imposed. Kempis said the total oil price increases reached P2.85 per liter, which caused a decrease in the drivers' income by an average of P40 daily. Sammy Lasay, chair of the Federation of Tricycle and PUJ Operators and Drivers Associations, said it would be reasonable for the government to grant a P1 increase in fare rates.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Priesthood in crisis

SAN PABLO CITY—San Pablo Diocesan Bishop Francisco C. San Diego admitted that college and theology seminaries are experiencing a vocation crisis. To attract young people to go into priesthood, he recently announced that the ordination of priests would be held in the candidates' hometown churches. Seminary rector Msgr. Jerry Bitoon said the college seminary in San Pablo City alone, which used to have 80 seminarians, now have 46.

Romulo Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Garbage headache

SILANG, Cavite—The town government here is looking for an alternative solution to its garbage and waste disposal problem after town mayor Ruben Maglangsakay was castigated by Environment and Natural Resources Sec. Heherson Alvarez for failure to have its own dump as mandated by the DENR. Alvarez had given Maglangsakay five days starting last Wednesday to explain why the municipal government failed to do so. Maglangsakay said the garbage collected in the town has been temporarily dumped in the nearby town due to lack of funds. Sources said a huge volume of uncollected garbage is burned along the street corners.

Fausto Tatad Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

GMA leads terror fight

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PRESIDENT Macapagal is warmly received by the Filipino community in Cambodia at the Hotel Cambodiana upon her arrival to attend the 8th Asean Summit. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

day by releasing a joint declaration on terrorism, ahead of schedule. The summit ends today.

"We resolve to intensify our efforts, collectively and individually, to prevent, counter and suppress the activities of terrorist groups in the region," the leaders said in the declaration.

They reiterated their commitment to carry out the measures outlined in the Philippine-initiated Asean Declaration on Joint Action to Counter Terrorist passed last year in Brunei.

With the declaration, Foreign Undersecretary Lauro Baja Jr. said, other Asean nations acknowledged the Philippines' lead role in the antiterrorism campaign.

"The Philippines is emerging as leader in the region on measures on antiterrorism," he said.

In her speech yesterday, the President suggested other measures, including using existing hotlines and person-to-person contacts for coordinating antiterrorist operations; sharing of airline passenger lists and shipping passenger manifests; and deploying more law enforcers to identified illegal entry and exit points.

She also proposed linking antiterrorist agencies in the Asean using information and communications technology to exchange vital data on counterterrorism.

Other leaders

Other Asean leaders also struck a forceful note.

Malaysian Prime Minister Mahathir Mohamad said the world today was "almost like a world at war" because of terrorist strikes and the fear they ignite.

"It obviously changed the world," Mahathir said of the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks in the United States and subsequent bombings in Indonesia and the Philippines.

"The world lives in fear now. People are afraid to travel, afraid to fly," he said in an interview with The Cambodia Daily. "Today's world is almost like a world at war."

Singapore Prime Minister Goh Chok Tong said Southeast Asia presented "a new set of soft targets" for international terrorism.

"We are now very much alert to the real possibility of terrorism taking place in Southeast Asia," he said in an interview with the same daily.

"Asean is a new set of soft targets," he said. "We have known for some time that Southeast Asia could become the next theater of operations for terrorists."

"We have to react positively by working together to stamp out terrorism in the area and coming up with projects that can shore up confidence in Asean," he said.

Indonesia's President Megawati Sukarnoputri, warning that terrorists could strike anywhere, said she had told US President George W. Bush that her country had already been the target of terrorism before the Sept. 11 strike in the United States.

"Even now, before anyone fully knew what had actually happened in Bali, there was another attack in Moscow at the theater.

Terrorism can strike anywhere, she said. "It doesn't relate to a particular religion, race or even a country."

In keeping with his maverick reputation, Mahathir also said human rights had to be viewed in relation to the threats facing countries.

"Under war conditions even the Europeans were quite ready to dispense with human rights," he said. "And already you see the great proponents of human rights have not hesitated to detain people, ask questions, examine them and humiliate them."

Joint action

"We must take joint measures to fight terrorism," Cambodian Prime Minister Hun Sen said at the start of the summit, according to a copy of the text. "We cannot allow the evil of terrorism to prevail."

The group pledged to set up a regional counterterrorism center in the Malaysian capital of Kuala Lumpur, but said individual groups should not be singled out.

"We deplore the tendency in some quarters to identify terrorism with particular religious or ethnic groups," the leaders' antiterrorism statement read.

The unified position was agreed during a working dinner of the leaders late Sunday ahead of Monday's official start.

An Asean official said the leaders decided to release the antiterrorism statement at the start of the summit to underline the group's commitment to fighting the scourge.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar said the declaration was aimed at telling the rest of the world that Southeast Asian leaders were getting tough on terrorism.

"We have to work hard to change this perception to create better confidence," Syed Hamid said.

This year's summit has attracted unusual interest, with Indian Prime Minister Atal Behari Vajpayee attending for the first time, raising the potential for an East-West corridor that could carry trading ambitions from India, through Burma and into Thailand and beyond.

Also due in Phnom Penh is a rare out-of-region guest: South Africa's Thabo Mbeki.

Thailand's entry

The leaders also announced Thailand's entry into a regional antiterrorism pact, which already groups Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Cambodia and is focused on sharing intelligence and resources.

The declaration also outlined five measures Asean would undertake to fight terrorism. These include the international conferences on anti-terrorism measures and tourism recovery that the Philippines is hosting this week, a regional meeting on money laundering and terrorist financing in Bali in December, an Asean ministerial summit to include China, Japan and South Korea in Bangkok late next year, and the setting up of a regional counterterrorism center in Kuala Lumpur.

It was the tightest security ever for an Asean conference. Cambodian officials say 5,000 police and military—including 1,000 in plain clothes—have been deployed in the capital.

But a weekend attack on a medical clinic in northwestern Cambodia, in which two men armed with AK-47 assault rifles took 13 people hostage, underscored continuing security problems in the impoverished country. The ordeal left four people dead, including the two hostage-takers. Officials insisted it was a local dispute unrelated to terrorism. *With reports from AFP, AP and Reuters*

Asean to promote region as tourism destination

From page A1

foreign travelers, phase out travel taxes on Asean nationals traveling to other Asean nations; encourage the use of smart cards for business and frequent travelers to Asean, use universal symbols and multilingual signs and forms to help foreigners, and ease the process of issuing travel documents and progressively reduce travel barriers.

They said they would facilitate transport within and into the region by progressively liberalizing air services, improving the efficiency of airport management, promoting cruising and travel by ferries and leisure boats, ensuring efficient and safe travel and tourism in terms of insurance, and encouraging cooperation and commercial arrangements among Asean airlines.

The leaders also said that while boosting tourism, they would preserve and promote their natural, cultural and historical heritage, and strengthen measures to prevent the exploitation of women and children.

To ensure travel safety, Asean nations will step up cooperation among law enforcement and immigration agencies.

According to records, some 41 million foreigners visited Asean last year, up by 6.43 percent from the previous year.

The tourism industry in the region generates an estimated annual revenue of $26 billion.

Go easy

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, who is with the President's party in Phnom Penh, said in an interview with radio station dzBB in Manila that Western governments should not rush to issue negative travel advisories.

"The United States and the European countries should go easy in issuing travel advisories, especially since the Philippines has lately been experiencing a modest surge in foreign tourist arrivals," he said.

Gordon pointed out that some Western countries had their own "internal terrorists" such as the Irish nationalists and Basque separatists, yet no travel advisories were being issued against them.

Officials of the Philippine National Police said the negative travel advisories would be best countered by ensuring travel safety.

"We must show our foreign guests that it's safe here," said Director Ricardo de Leon of the PNP's police community relations.

He called for the boosting of local tourism and said the PNP could do its share by maintaining high visibility and security in areas frequented by tourists, including resorts, parks and the rows of bars in Malate, Manila.

The US government has cautioned its nationals traveling and residing in the Philippines "to exercise great caution and maintain a heightened security awareness."

In an earlier advisory, it urged its nationals to refrain from traveling to some areas in Mindanao, such as Basilan, Sulu, Tawi-Tawi and Zamboanga City, where a spate of kidnappings and bombings had been reported.

"It doesn't say that US nationals should stop coming here," PNP chief Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr. said of the latest US advisory, dated Nov. 3.

To push police visibility, Ebdane and some PNP officials joined the "street party" at the Remedios Circle in Manila's Malate District on the night of Oct. 31.

"Shortly after we got there, the revelers, many of them foreigners, started coming out. We were surprised. That's what we want to happen—boost the tourists' confidence," De Leon said.

Ebdane and company attended the party on the invitation of a group of bar and restaurant owners, who had noted the steep decline in the number of customers following the wave of bombings in Zamboanga City.

"We went there to show that, hey, guys, it's safe here," Ebdane said. "That's the kind of activity we need to encourage tourists to come to the country."

The PNP chief plans to visit other areas in Metro Manila frequented by local and foreign tourists, De Leon said.

PRESIDENT Macapagal is welcomed by Cambodian Prime Minister Samdech Hun Sen at the Intercontinental Hotel in Phnom Penh. JERRY CARUAL/PCPO-MALACAÑANG

Tone down

The Department of Foreign Affairs has asked the US state department to tone down its latest travel advisory concerning the Philippines.

"We asked them to review (it) because the Philippine government is not taking things sitting down as far as the problem of terrorism is concerned," said Foreign Undersecretary Franklin Ebdalin, who is in charge of the DFA pending the arrival of Foreign Secretary Blas Ople from Phnom Penh.

US Assistant Secretary of State Matthew Daley met with Ebdalin yesterday to discuss the advisory.

Daley supposedly told Ebdalin of the US Embassy's duty to inform Americans in the Philippines of the threats confronting the country. *With reports from Jerome Aning, Norman Bordadora and Reuters*

Perez protests EU plan…

From page A1

the) actions that we have been doing. We have caused the arrest, prosecution and conviction of more suspected terrorists than any country in Europe," Perez said.

He said the "mere fact that we are fighting terrorism and the fact that we do not allow terrorists to operate here and (even) cause their arrest and prosecution" should be enough proof that the country was seriously fighting terrorism on the home front."

To bolster his claim that the country has a no-nonsense approach to terrorism, Perez cited his strong objection to requests to have suspected Indonesian terrorist Agus Dwikarna deported to his own country.

Dwikarna was convicted of illegal possession of explosives by a Pasay court and sentenced to a maximum of 17 years in jail.

Perez tagged Dwikarna as a ranking leader of Jemaah Islamiah, a regional terrorist group believed to have links with the al-Qaida network.

Another Indonesian, Fathur Rohman al-Ghozi, was also convicted of the same charges. Al-Ghozi had admitted complicity in the Rizal Day bombings in 2000.

Doronila, quoting reliable sources, said the European Union had already alerted European embassies in Manila about the possibility of imposing tight restrictions on the issuance of Schengen visas to Filipinos.

Labeling the country a terrorist haven would subject Filipinos to rigorous and lengthy screening prior to the issuance of visas to enter 14 of the 15 EU states.

No cells

In Malacañang, the President's spokesperson said leaders of both the JI and al-Qaida did pass through the Philippines but did not establish cells or strong links with local Islamic extremists.

Members of al-Qaida met local Moro separatists here in the 1980s, but "the presence of people linked to the al-Qaida now is a soft link," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

"It is not confirmed there are actual cells," Tiglao told reporters, but said if JI leaders were found in the Philippines they would be arrested.

He said that at the time the al-Qaida and JI leaders were in the Philippines, it was not clear if they were planning terrorist attacks and neither group had yet been linked to terrorism.

"Because of the movement of people in the region they reportedly came in and left, but there are no permanent cells," Tiglao said.

The Abu Sayyaf, a Moro bandit group notorious for kidnapping Christians and foreigners in Mindanao, had contacts with al-Qaida in its nascent stages, Tiglao said.

Info center

The government has volunteered to host a regional information system on transnational crimes, terrorism and subversive acts.

Immigration Commissioner Andrea Domingo said yesterday the government had proposed that the Philippines be designated the Asean center for information exchange on immigration concerns as a strategy to battle terrorism.

The position paper stating the Philippines' "willing(ness)" to be the information center in Southeast Asia was submitted during the 6th meeting of Directors General of Immigration Departments and Heads of Consular Affairs Division of the Ministries of Foreign Affairs (DGICM) in September.

"The importance of this mechanism is underscored by the critical role that information has and continues to play in the war against cross-border terrorism, subversive activities, transnational crimes and illegal migratory trends," read the position paper.

The Asean information center would facilitate the detection and deterrence of migrants that are wanted under the law, including suspected terrorists.

It will be funded by the Asean, although it could also receive donations from "friendly states/organizations" and can charge fees for information requested by non-Asean countries to generate funds, according to the government's proposal.

Domingo said the Asean countries had also agreed during the September meeting to tighten its reins on human smugglers and traffickers as these could lead to the apprehension of terrorists as well.

Citing confidential reports, Domingo said human smugglers and suspected terrorists had also been found to secure fraudulent travel documents from the same sources.

Some Asean countries, including the Philippines, have already posted their immigration policies and programs at the Asean website.

Domingo said a 24-hour hotline had also been set up since the recent DGICM meeting to allow top immigration officials to access confidential information on the entry and exit of suspicious characters in the Asean countries.

The center for information exchange will collect, organize, update and store both unclassified and declassified data on migration among Asean countries. *With reports from Blanche Rivera; AFP*

Bus falls off bridge; 1 killed, 20 missing

From page A1

the river swelled due to continuous rains since Sunday.

He said at least 10 passengers of the Dolbo Trans bus were rescued. The bus, which came from Santiago City, was bound for Tuguegarao City when it met the accident between 5 and 5:30 p.m.

Rescue workers had yet to identify the lone fatality as of last night.

"We are doing all things now to save the missing people but the problem is the river's current is getting stronger," Calderon said.

Rescue teams and divers from the Army's 5th Infantry Division and Roxas municipal government were sent to the accident site.

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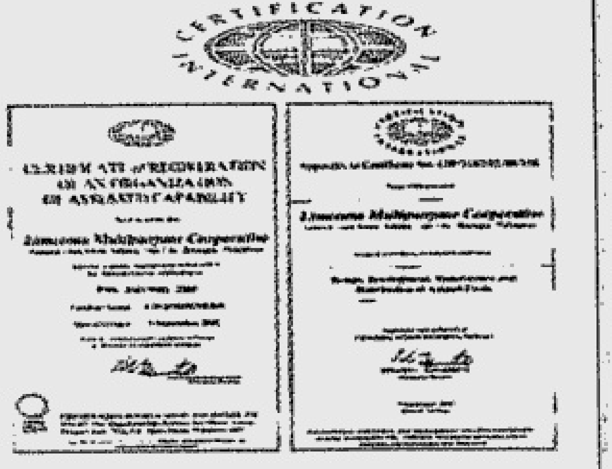
Since 1970

CDA Certified "Billionaire",
Now the Nation's First Feedmill Cooperative to be ISO 9001:2000 Certified

By Rona Tablada

Lipa City, Batangas – Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative, the leading agricultural cooperative in the country today is now the nation's first feed mill cooperative to be ISO 9001:2000 certified. The certification was formally awarded on October 18, 2002 by Renato Navarette, Managing Director of Certification International.

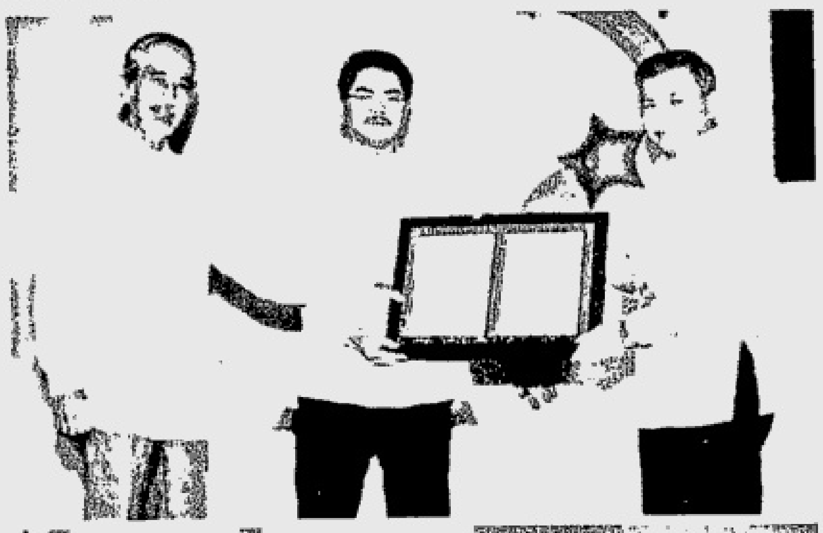

CERTIFICATION INTERNATIONAL

The International Organization for Standardization (ISO) is a worldwide federation of national standards bodies from more than 140 countries. The ISO 9001-2000 certification is only awarded to companies that implement a well-rounded Quality Management System (QMS) - a system that focuses mainly on customer satisfaction, proactive employee involvement and advancement, systematic process approach to management and production, and continual improvement.

As a feed mill cooperative owned and operated by small-scale farmers themselves, competing with private feed manufacturers poses a great challenge. However, adhering to the Quality Management System set by ISO ensures enhanced product quality, customer satisfaction, improved productivity, market competitiveness and export capability.

Earning the ISO 9001:2000 certification has been one of the goals of Limcoma President Nicanor M. Briones together with his Vice President Joselito Lingao and its Board Members. With the unflinching dedication of its QMS Core Group composed of all of the department managers headed by its Operations Manager Tony Hernandez as QM Representative and Cynthia Morada as his Deputy, Limcoma's ISO 9001:2000 certification was officially registered on September 9, 2002.

According to Mr. Briones, "this giant leap towards excellence affirms Limcoma's unwavering commitment to provide the highest quality of goods and services to its members". He urged all Limcoma members to continue to support their own Cooperative because the success of Limcoma is the success of its own members.



[illegible] ISO 9001:2000 Certification International

Its humble beginnings

LIMCOMA Multi-Purpose Cooperative was originally registered as the Lipa Multi-Purpose Cooperative Marketing Association (LIMCOMA) in the early 1970s to resolve the problem of the rising prices of feeds supplied by corporate integrators. It all started with the "pala-pala" system wherein production was done manually with the use of spades in a small rented Silva Rice Mill in Lipa.

Because of the quality of feeds Limcoma manufactures and the unwavering support of its original 77 hog and poultry farmers/members, its sales performance grew year after year. The growing demand drove Limcoma to expand in 1978 by setting up two branches, one in San Jose and another in Rosario, after buying their rented rice mill in Lipa. A Quality Control Laboratory was also built in the same year to ensure the highest quality of raw materials used in its production.

It was Limcoma who spearheaded the use of an automated and computerized feed mill in Southeast Asia in 1994. In 2000, it purchased a pelleting machine in addition to its mash computerized feed mill. Estimated cost of the entire feed milling equipment is at P100 Million imported from Netherlands.

To ensure savings and maintain high quality, Limcoma put up twin silos for storage of its corn in 1998.

Under the leadership of Mr. Briones and Vice-President Joselito Lingao, the Cooperative began to reach an annual sales of more than P1 Billion In 1999. It has been considered the most successful grassroots business organization in the country today.

Limcoma today

Mr. Briones attributes Limcoma's success mainly to six key factors, namely: (1) use of the highest quality of raw materials, (2) state of the art feed milling equipment, (3) strict quality control procedures, (4) dedicated employees, (5) success driven Officers and Board of Directors, and (6) loyal and supportive members.

Because of the high quality of feeds Limcoma manufactures, its membership increased from 77 to 5,484 agricultural farmers from Batangas, Laguna, Quezon, Mindoro and Bulacan provinces. The initial paid-up capital of only P57,000.00 in 1970 grew to more than P101 Million this year.

Sales have soared especially in the last four years as well as its income. Limcoma has been certified by the Cooperative Development Authority (CDA) as "billionaire", with sales reaching to as much as about P1.4 billion in 2001 and assets amounting to more than P.5 billion.

Services

In adherence to its vision of being the leading, most viable, full service Cooperative committed to the service of its members and the community, Limcoma has expanded its range of services.

In 1999, **Mayflower Agri-Ventures** was opened to meet the veterinary needs of its members' livestock and poultry animals. It is engaged in manufacturing and selling veterinary products at very low prices. It also provides free veterinary services to monitor drug application.

In 1994, Limcoma launched its meat processing line, which aims to give their members a ready market for their livestock and poultry produce. Currently called **"Batangas Prime"**, it includes processed meat products like tocino, tapa, longganiza, bacon, ham, embotido, sisig, hotdogs and many others.

Limcoma also established its own **Rural Bank** in 1999 in order to extend financial assistance to members and would be members who wish to expand their agricultural livelihood at a much lower interest rate. Today, Limcoma Rural Bank has branches in San Jose and Rosario, Batangas.

In 1988, the Cooperative bought a six-hectare land in Talisay, Lipa City for its **swine breeding and experimental farming** activity. It has an artificial insemination center which practices breedmatching program to target the most productive combination. It also has its own **Diagnostic Laboratory**. Limcoma also implements a **Zero ASEC** (Aflatoxin, Salmonella and E.coli) program in the production of its feeds to ensure that their feeds are bacteria free.

A state of the art **Quality Control Laboratory** was also opened in 1981 in order to assure the quality of the raw materials used for the production of feeds. Equipment worth almost P10 Million were imported from the USA and Italy for the laboratory. **Free seminars** are also given to its members to guide them in their livestock and poultry raising.

ISO 9001 : 2000

(L-R) Dir. Ernesto Vale, Dir. Gerundio De Castro, Dir. Casiana Mangbas, Dir. Vicente Kalalo, Chairman Romeo Ambal, Cert. Int'l. Managing Dir. Renato Navarette, Rosehall Chairman Juan Quimos, Rosehall Consultant Danny Enriquez, Dir. Merele Magtibay, Pres. Nikki Briones, VP Lito Lingao, Dir. Carlito Ocson and Dir. Abner Aquila.

ISO 9001 : 2000

The ISO - QMS Core Team

Standing (from L-R) Dennis Baguila, Tony Hernandez, Galon Rodelas, Roel [illegible] Kalalo, Arnel Mayor, Alex Japor, Mario Hatina, Edmund Lanio, Felix Mostera and [illegible] Aggan. (Sitting from L-R) Emmy delas Alas, Marican Aggan, Elsa Javier, Mylene De Ocampo, Lovie Gomez, Dezie Gonzales, Lea Lanio, Cynthia [illegible] and [illegible] Pinto.

Limcoma also provides livelihood opportunities to its members through contract growing or the **paiwi and paluag program**. To bring its services closer to its members, Limcoma already has 4 major branches, 10 modified branches and 33 service outlets in the different areas of the region. It has also forged ties with 27 associate cooperatives to expand its area of service.

Looking ahead

The increase in Limcoma membership of mainly livestock and poultry farmers simultaneously increased the demand for feeds. However, its existing 30 MT computerized feed mill with a rated capacity of 600 bags per hour operating 16 hours per day can no longer sustain its increasing demand.

Because of this, Limcoma has sought for government financial assistance through a loan from the Agricultural Competitiveness Fund (ACEF) of the Department of Agriculture and from the Land Bank to put another feed mill. Upon government approval of the loan, a 20 metric ton per hour capacity feed mill will be opened in Quezon to augment the growing demand of the Limcoma membership.

Government assistance is necessary in order not to inhibit Limcoma's growth. Through this Limcoma will be able to duplicate the success it has reached for over thirty years in merely five to ten years time.

As a link between agricultural crop farmers and livestock and poultry raisers, a great number of Filipinos stand to benefit from this undertaking. Services will be extended to a wider range of market therefore contributing to the government's effort towards ensuring food security, creating employment and improving the standard of living of the people in the countryside. •

[illegible] LIMCOMA Chairman of the Board Romeo M. Ambal, Lipa City Mayor Vilma Santos, Philippine President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo and LIMCOMA [illegible] LIMCOMA's 32nd General Assembly.

PRESIDENT MESSAGE

My esteem greetings goes to the Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative as it is honored as the First Cooperative Mill in the Philippines to be ISO-Certified.

Developing a modernized agricultural sector is a leading concern of our government. In order to succeed in the global arena, we must adapt to world-class standards by improving our agricultural machineries that our farmers direly need to increase productivity.

This laudable initiative that your organization has done is doubly significant in the light of out quest to empower our farmer and to make our agricultural products truly competitive in liberalized market. I am confident that through our consolidate efforts to create a level-playing field for our small farmers, we could spur sustainable development in the countryside.

Join me in realizing social equity that is the crux of our strong stable Republic. *Mabuhay*!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL ARROYO
President-Republic of the Philippines

It is with distinct pride and honor to greet Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative on the occasion of the awarding of its ISO (International Organization for Standardization) 9001:2000 Certification from Certification International on the **18th day of October 2002.**

Through the years Limcoma Multi Purpose Cooperative has distinguished itself because of its deep and enduring devotion to the well-being of one of the biggest sectors in our agricultural industry in Batangas – our poultry and livestock farmers. The efforts if has been untiringly exerting to provide them with the highest quality of products and services which can compete anywhere and the sizeable and ever increasing number of its members clearly demonstrate this. No wonder, it has become an effective and productive instrument of rural economic development.

Furthermore, its unprecedented commitment to continuously increase its efficiency, solidify and expand its resources clearly displays and underscores Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative's deep awareness of its social and economic responsibilities in the increasing and crucial task of providing jobs and livelihood opportunities to rural and low-income communities.

May Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative therefore grow even stronger and dependable as it faces more challenges, more responsibilities and more undertakings in the years ahead.

Again, my sincere greeting and best wishes to our partners in community building.

Mabuhay!

VILMA SANTOS-RECTO
Mayor, Lipa City, Batangas

It is with distinct pride and honor to congratulate the Officers, Members and employees of Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative for receiving the ISO 9001:2000 certification, thus making our cooperative the First cooperative feed mill in the Philippines to be ISO certified.

It is a milestone for the cooperative to receive such kind of award and again I want to extend my congratulation to the employees especially the core group who untiringly exerted their effort in making this possible.

Mabuhay tayong lahat!

ROMEO M. AMBAL
Chairman of the Board
Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative

In our continuous pursuit for Excellence and in living with our tradition of quality, Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative – the leading agricultural cooperative in the nation, has successfully qualified for ISO 9001:2000 Certification.

With the growing success of Limcoma, it has always been our intent that the livestock and poultry livelihood of our members flourishes along with it. Thus, we strive to exceed customer expectations by strengthening our corporate integrity, professional excellence, technical expertise and product quality though implementing the Quality Management System (QMS) set by ISO.

Being ISO 9001:2000 certified, we can truly say that the QMS of Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative is world class. For this achievement, I would like to thank our officers and employee for their untiring dedication and hard work to attain this certification. I would like to thank the entire Limcoma membership for the confidence and support you have given the present leadership in taking our Cooperative this puisuit of excellence and success.

I fervently hope that Limcoma will continue to be united behind our great ideals and aspirations. Limcoma ***atin ito! Sama sama sa pag-asenso!***

Maraming, maraming salamay po.

NICANOR M. BRIONES
President, Limcoma Multi-Purpose Cooperative

AN APPEAL TO
PRESIDENT GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

Limcoma Multi-Purpose Coop. appeals to the President, in behalf of its 5,500 members and small-scale livestock and poultry farmers.

With the influx of imported meat (beef, pork, chicken), egg powder and meat products, the farm gate price of locally produced products have drastically dropped. As such, the income of our small-scale farmers has gravely been affected.

In May of this year alone, farm gate price of hogs was Php70.00 per kilo. It decreased to only Php55.00 per kilo to date or a 21% decrease in merely five months. This converts to a Php1,200.00 loss per head of hog on the farmers.

With this, we appeal to the President, Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, to limit and control the importation of the said products to save our small-scale farmers from total deprivation of income and total loss of their resources.

NICANOR "NIKKI" M. BRIONES
President, LIMCOMA

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SPORTS

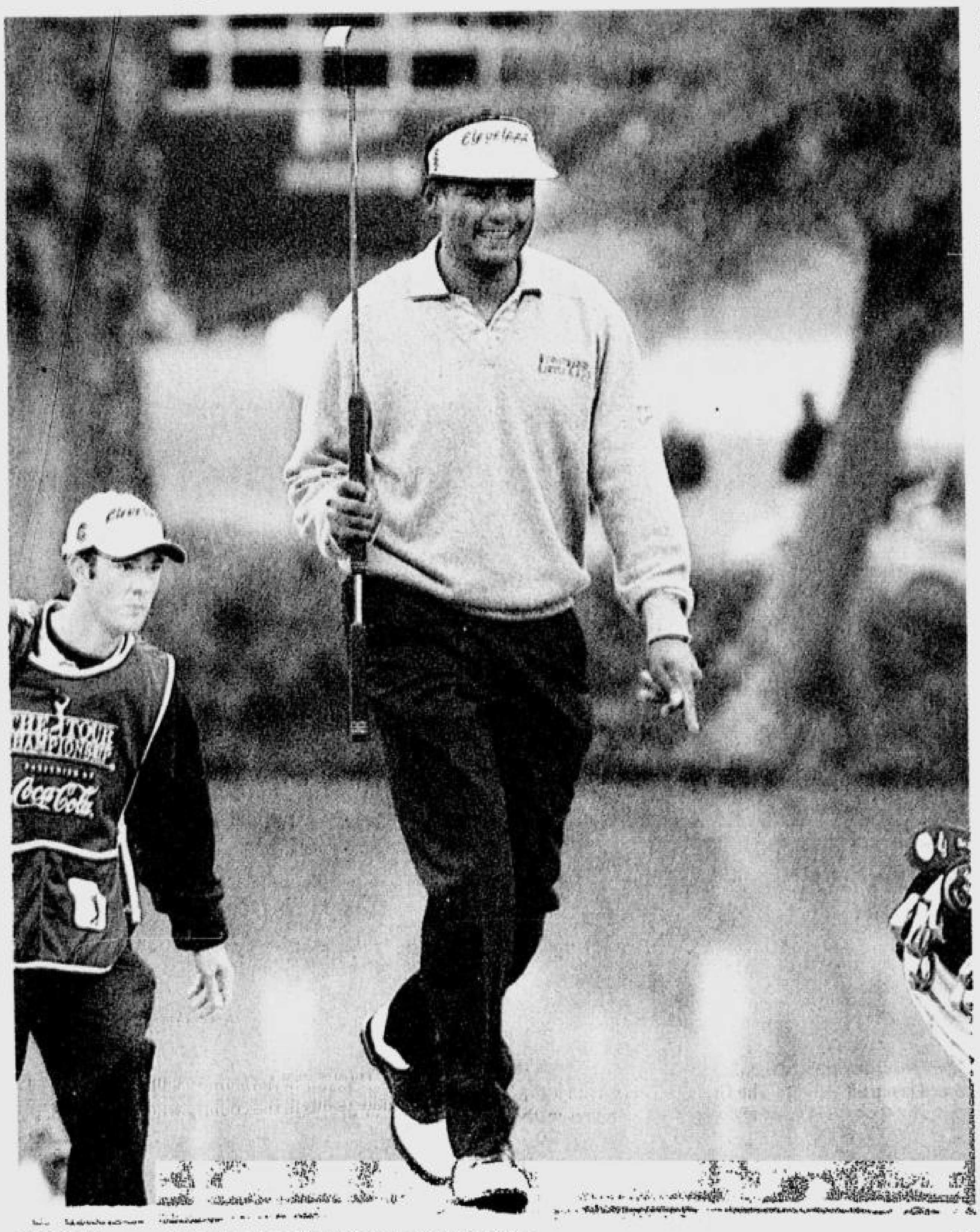
Editor Al S. Mendoza ● Associate Editor Edwin M. Villanueva

First base for New York

LONDON–Keep a lid on those celebrations, New York. Being selected as the US candidate for the 2012 Summer Olympics was the easy part. Now comes the true challenge–winning the international race–after beating San Francisco on Saturday.

PGA TOUR CHAMPIONSHIP

Singh wins by 2; Woods co-7th



SINGH: Always nails the big one with a big game on the last day. AFP

By Stuart Hall
Reuters Sportswriter

ATLANTA, Georgia–Fiji's Vijay Singh shot a three-under-par 67 to steer clear of the chasing pack and win the season-ending PGA Tour Championship on Sunday.

Overnight leader Singh, who has made a habit of leading into the final round of this event but failing to win, finished at 12-under-par for a two-shot margin over Charles Howell III.

David Toms finished at seven-under, followed by Jerry Kelly at six-under and Davis Love III and Phil Mickelson at five-under.

World number one Tiger Woods (70) finished tied for seventh with Chris DiMarco at four-under-par.

It was a well-deserved victory for the 39-year-old Singh, who had held 54-hole leads the last two times the season-ending event was played on the East Lake course.

In 1998, Singh led by one stroke after the third round but lost in a playoff to Hal Sutton and in 2000, he and Woods were tied for the lead, but Mickelson shot 66 to claim victory.

Singh figured the time was right.

"Especially on this golf course. I thought I was going to win and today I played well," said Singh, who won twice this season and finished third on the PGA Tour money list.

"I think that was the key. I started off with a bogey and then played really solid." Singh began Sunday with a three-shot lead over playing partner Howell, who was making his first appearance in the 30-player Tour Championship.

Singh's lead was cut to two strokes after that bogey on the first hole but Howell failed to capitalise on the opening.

"I had quite a few putts there on the front side where if I could have made them, it would have changed things," said Howell of missed birdie putt attempts on the first three holes and then a bogey at the fourth.

"No doubt I had to do something in the first four or five holes."

Arriving at the ninth hole, Singh snuck a peek at the leaderboard and noticed that while he was at eight-under, he still held a two-shot lead.

Singh then birdied holes nine through 11.

At the ninth, he hit a sand wedge to within five feet and then stuck a five-iron to within two feet at the 11th.

"So I said, 'well, I'm comfortable now'," Singh said.

With the other players failing to mount a challenge, it was down to the 23-year-old Howell to try and deny Singh.

Howell birdied the 12th and eagled the par-four 13th, holing a sand wedge from 115 yards.

Both players birdied the 15th, but Howell could only manage one more birdie at the par-four 17th while Singh maintained his composure to stay ahead.

"It seemed like every time I hit a good shot, especially on the back nine, he was right there to answer it," Howell said.

Singh, winless in 2001, credits a new training regimen with getting him back to the form of several years ago when he won six times from 1997 through 2000, including two majors.

"The last two years I've really taken it to the next level," said Singh, who won the Shell Houston Open last May.

"Although, I'm making sure that my golf is not being neglected while I intensify my physical training."

Woods: I've been playing hurt

By Doug Ferguson
AP Golf Writer

WOODS

ATLANTA—Tiger Woods has won eight major championships and 34 times on the PGA Tour—all on a bum knee.

Woods winced after hitting his approach to the par-5 15th hole, limping slightly on his left leg. He later shrugged it off, saying it was an old knee injury he has had for years.

"It's been sore for quite a while and just acted up on that shot," Woods said.

Woods said he had surgery on his left knee in 1994 when he was at Stanford.

It didn't seem to bother him at the Masters and US Open. He won both of those majors by three shots this year.

"Actually, it hurt quite a bit," Woods said. "You've just got to play through it."

Meanwhile, the ballots are in the mail, for PGA Tour player of the year, but Tiger Woods officially wrapped up a few other honors Sunday.

He earned over $6.9 million this year to lead the money list and win the Arnold Palmer Award for the fourth consecutive season, and fifth time in the last six years. Tom Watson (1977-80) was the last player to win four straight money titles.

He also had the lowest scoring average—68.56—for the fourth consecutive year, earning him the Vardon Trophy (from the PGA of America) and the Byron Nelson Award (from the PGA Tour).

Watson also won the Vardon Trophy four consecutive years.

Woods is favored to win the Jack Nicklaus Award as player of the year. That's decided by a vote of the players and will be announced later this month.

Considering he was said to be in a slump last year—winning only one major and $5.6 million—perhaps he also will be a candidate for comeback player of the year.

Toyota backs U-Bix Riviera Pro-Am golf

PERENNIAL sports patron Toyota Motor Philippines Inc. has again thrown its support behind the U-Bix Riviera National Pro Am set next week at Riviera's Couples course.

"We've always been all-out when it comes to extending support to worthy projects in sports," said Danny Isla, senior vice president of TMPI. "The U-Bix National Pro Am is one of the few that has shown its genuine concern both for our professionals and amateurs."

Ariel de Jesus, Toyota's public affair officer, confirmed yesterday that Toyota will stake two vehicles for the occasion.

"We were part of history when we were invited to join the event last year upon the tournament's revival," said De Jesus. "It's but right that we complement the gesture by staking two Toyotas this time."

The Toyota Altis 1.8 will be up as a hole-in-one prize during the tournament Nov. 13-16, and the latest Revo model during the Celebrity Pro-Am on Nov. 12.

"I can't thank Toyota enough for its generosity," said U-Bix president Bert Bravo. "The heart-warming move by one of the country's giants in motoring will inspire us to work harder to make the tournament another smashing success."

Bravo himself is shelling out P1 million in prizes in partnership with Konica Corporation through its president, Hirofumi Sakaguchi of the Office Document Company in Tokyo.

The designated holes will be selected by John Blanch, Riviera's general manager in consultation with golf director Lewis Rissman.

"I have my trust and confidence in John and Lewis," said Comm. Danny Pizarro, the president of Riviera GCC, who chairs the organizing committee. "They know it best when it comes to selecting holes for special prizes."

Toyota staked an Altis last year during the revival of the nation's most prestigious team event that began in 1958 and ended in 1995 when Fort Bonifacio, its old home, was converted into a global/shopping mall.

Noli Kempis and Erwin Vinluan won last year when Juanito Pagunsan and his son Juvic ditched their approach on the 18th and last hole that lent a dramatic ending to the event's revival at Langer.

The Kempis-Vinluan duo will again be around for the tournament that initially stakes a champion's purse of P200,000.

Que debuts today

ANGELO Que starts playing for the money today when he debuts in the company of reigning Philippine Open champion Rick Gibson in the third leg of the First Gentleman's Professional Golf Circuit at Canlubang North.

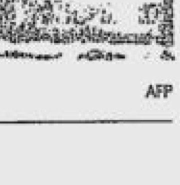
His confidence boosted by a momentous farewell amateur stint in Malaysia where he had posted the best-ever finish by a Filipino–third place in the World Amateurs–the 23-year-old Que joins Gibson and the other local big guns in what is expected to be a week of explosive scoring.

"I can't wait to get to the first tee," said Que. "This is something I've been waiting for all year and what I did in Malaysia is some thing good for my confidence.

Que will try to do what former national teammate Marlon Dizon came very close to achieving in the inaugural leg at Sta. Elena–win his maiden stint.

Short but sweet

SPECTATOR



Al S. Mendoza

IT'S been quite a while since I've done this. So, let's fire away.

■

LILY YLAGAN, Bongabong, Mindoro: I'm offering for free two hectares of land to Mr. Peping Cojuangco. Tell him to call me at 831-6119.

COMMENT: Good luck, Cong. Hope to see your dream equestrian grounds soon.

■

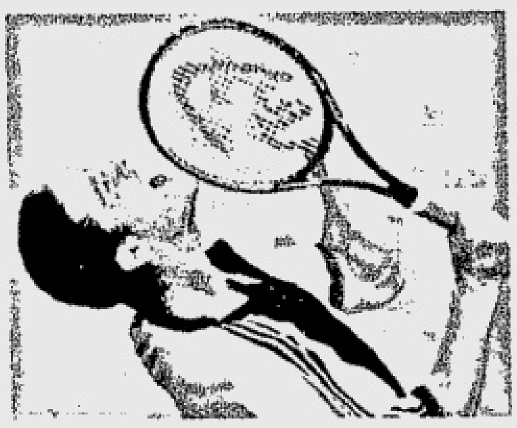
NILO O. DIPOS, Makati City: President Macapagal-Arroyo must be impeached. Why was the RP-South Korea game shown on a delayed basis? The game was barely 10 minutes old on NBN 4, the Philippines up by 10, when the radios screamed: Korea won, 69-68! GMA should not have allowed that. Doesn't she own NBN 4?

COMMENT: Next time, better read the papers.

■

FRED S. HABON, DAR Central Office, Q.C.: Until such time that we have developed the most lethal knockout punch, we must forget sending boxers to the Asian Games.

COMMENT: Sure. Aside from a KO punch, let's add Tyson's rabies.



ECSTACY REUTERS

Marat Safin appears in endless ecstacy after winning the Paris Masters yesterday, beating world No. 1 Lleyton Hewitt, 7-6 (4), 6-0, 6-4.

Slovakia cops 1st 'Fed' title

MASPALOMAS, Gran Canaria–Daniela Hantuchova put in a scintillating display of power and precision to guide Slovakia to their first Fed Cup title with victory over favourites Spain on Sunday.

The 19-year-old produced a performance full of maturity under intense pressure to win an epic battle with Conchita Martinez, 6-7, 7-5, 6-4, before Janette Husarova sealed the 3-1 victory by defeating an injured Arantxa Sanchez-Vicario, 6-0, 6-2.

Having only played under their own flag since 1994, Slovakia exceeded expectations by beating the five-time winners on their own turf.

"It just meant so much to me," Hantuchova said. "I gave everything I had out there and I wanted to win so much. I was just doing everything I could to win. *Reuters*

Sepulveda overwhelms M. Reyes in 2

BERNARDINE Sepulveda and Alyssa Anne Labay eliminated their compatriots yesterday to join Kristel Ann Samala in the second round qualifying of the Union Cement-ITF Philippines Women's Circuit 1 at the Rizal Memorial Tennis Center.

Sepulveda blasted Mercedes Reyes, 6-0, 6-0, and Labay defeated Katrin Joyce Reyes, 6-2, 6-0 while Samala had a first-round bye.

Matches today begins at 10 a.m. with Sepulveda facing second seed Diana Julianto of Indonesia, Labay playing fifth seed sung Eun-Hee of Korea and Samala meeting seventh seed Ryoko Watanabe of Japan.

Other matches top seed Zsuzsanna Babos against No. 9 Tiger Rock Angel of Great Britain, No. 2 Korean Lee Choong-hee against fellow Korean Bae Hae-youn, No. 3 Mari Inoue of Japan against Patricia Mayr of Austria, No. 4 Evelina Rusdianto of Indonesia against Korean Seo Soomi and No. 6 Orawan Lamangthong of Thailand against Japanese Kumiko Anzai.

The winners of the two-round qualifying will advance in the 32-person main draw offering $1,600 to the champion.

Czarina Mae Arevalo, ranked No. 1145 in the world, and Patricia Santos, who just returned from a succesful Asian Championships campaign in Uzbekistan, are the local wild cards along with 15-year-old Uzbek Ivana Isarailova, the Asian Tennis Federation (ATF) wild card.

the main draw of this $10,000 event supported by the ITF Grand Slam Development Fund, Wilson balls, Truflex., Manila Midtown Hotel and Philippine Sports Commission will start tomorrow.

Milo BEST offers courses on weekends

YOUNG basketball aspirants still have a chance to join the year-ending Milo BEST Saturday and Sunday-only classes at Ateneo College covered courts and St. Benedict College, respectively.

Level 1, 2, 3 and 4 classes are being held from 8 to 11 a.m. at Ateneo while level 1, 2 and 3 sessions are going on from 1 to 4 p.m. at St. Benedict.

Registration parties may visit or call BEST Center at 34 Scout Lozano, Quezon City, tel. nos. 411-6260 and 372-3065 and Dansei Groom Shop/Sensei Salon at 5th Floor, Holiday Inn Manila, UN Avenue., tel. nos. 525-8191 and 524-9311.

Thousands of young boys and girls completed various Milo BEST classes in Metro Manila and other key cities and provinces last summer.

Luzon gamecock derby slated today

MANDALUYONG Coliseum comes alive anew today as it presents another fast-paced and non-stop event, the "Luzon Gamecock Breeders Association (LGBA) 2nd Stag Series 2002 6-Stag Derby." Set today is the elimination round, while the finals is on Thursday.

Backing up the derby are sponsors Pit Fighter Feeds and Washout Shampoo from Lakpue Drug, Thunderbird Enertone, Amtyl 500 of Excellence Gamefowl Specialists and Derby Ace from San Miguel Feeds.

Participants are gunning not only for the derby championship, but also the prestigious "LGBA Breeder of the Year" plum. The top breeder will receive P500,000, according to LGBA president Rene "Boy" Diaz.

Rep. Lawrence Wacnang of Kalinga Apayao (EDL Crowsland Excellence I) gained the upper hand with six points after ruling the first LGBA stagfest held on Oct. 21 and 23, participated in by 67 cockers and gamefowl breeders from Luzon.

Luis Villa of Quezon Province (Hermosa entry) has five points, followed by Edmund Yasay of Batangas (Wild Harvester), Justice Magdangal Elma (Banahaw Altuz I) and R. Tan (Jopete Black Stallion JMT III) with 4.5 points each.

"It's still a long way to go. Everyone has a good chance of clinching the LGBA Breeder of the Year award," Diaz explained.

Kenyan runners rule NY marathon

NEW YORK—Rodgers Rop completed the first ever Kenyan sweep of the New York City marathon titles on Sunday and added to his victory earlier this year in Boston.

Joyce Chepchumba pulled away down the stretch to claim the women's title in the 33rd running of one of the world's premier road races.

In a race contested under partly sunny skies with no wind and temperatures in the mid 40s Fahrenheit, it turned into a three-Kenyan battle between Rop, Christopher Cheboiboch and Laban Kipkemboi in the final seven miles of the 26.2-mile race through the five boroughs of New York.

Rop overtook Cheboiboch with five miles remaining, the point where runners re-enter Manhattan via the borough of Bronx, and crossed the finish line in Manhattan's Central Park 24 seconds short of Tesfaye Jifar's year-old record with a time of two hours eight minutes and seven seconds.

It was the third fastest New York finish in history.

"I think to win the New York marathon, it's one of the largest marathons in the world, and that makes you want to be famous all over the world," Rop said.

"I think it's great for our country for us to win, both men and women. I think it will bring our country up." Rop, 29, overcame cramp late in the race to surpass his own personal best of 2:09:02 set in Boston seven months ago. He became the fourth male to win in Boston and New York in the same year and first since Joseph Chebet in 1999. Alberto Salazar and Bill Rodgers were the others.

"I was feeling some stitches. I was cramping," Rop said. "I was not afraid, only that the stitches gave me problems, otherwise I was not afraid of the cramps." Cheboiboch placed second, as he had done in Boston behind Rop, finishing 10 seconds behind Rop on Sunday. Kipkemboi was third at 2:08:39. *Reuters*

Welcoat downs John-O, 87-66

GAMES THURSDAY *(Makati Coliseum)*
3 p.m.—Cheeseballs-Shark vs Sunkist
5 p.m.—Dazz vs ICTSI-La Salle

By Dennis U. Eroa

COMEBACKING Welcoat downed John-O, 87-66, even as LBC-Batangas subdued Montaña, 84-77, last night at the start of the PBL Challenge Cup before a jam-packed crowd at the Pasig Sports Center.

Welcoat paraded a brand-new lineup but played with the same intensity and deadly form which enabled it to win numerous titles, surging to a commanding 56-40 halftime bubble which John-O failed to surmount.

Rommel Adducul and Eddie Laure teamed up superbly with Welcoat's shock troopers as coach Leo Austria's charges treated the fans with a display of superb basketball, marked with fluid ball movements and a deadly transition game.

Earlier, LBC-Batangas made a triumphant debut by turning back Montaña, 84-77, whose defeat was hastened by a poor start.

Alex Compton found a reliable partner in Froilan Baguion even as Miko Roldan showed a new-found fierceness in the middle as the Blades joined the Paintmasters on top with a 1-0 card.

The 6-foot-3 Roldan, whose rise to the basketball ladder is being hampered by his lack of focus, averted what could have been a major collapse when he hit back-to-back baskets in the final 2:17 of play. He also grabbed 12 rebounds as the smaller Blades routed the Jewels in the shaded lane.

With Montaña unable to crack LBC's defense, the Jewels trailed, 51-29, after 20 minutes of play, but slowly gained lost ground when Jenkins Mesina and slippery Egay Echavez caught fire in the third period.

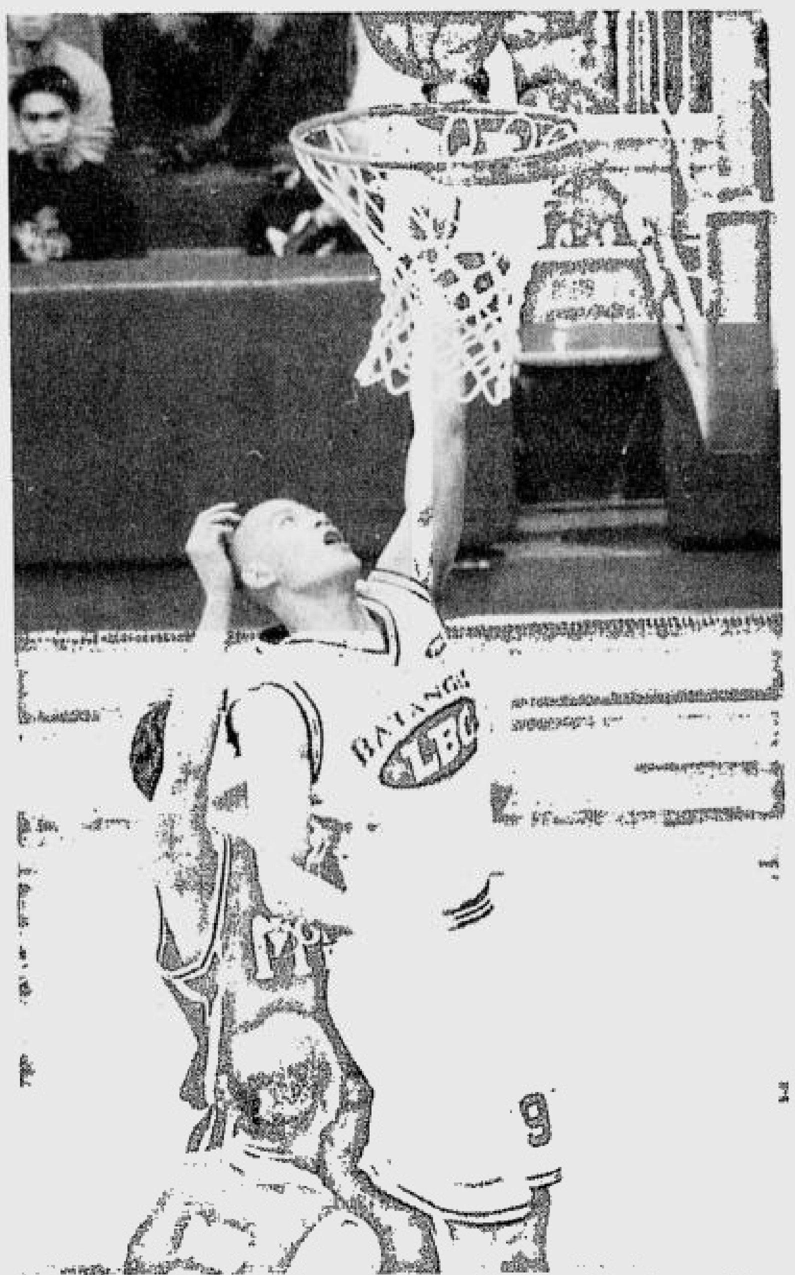
LBC 84— Compton 14, Baguion 13, Roldan 12, Cuevas 10, Magpayo 8, Manabat 7, Capati 5, Sta. Cruz 4, Rivera 4, Caceres 4, Reguera 2, Uy 2, De Castro 0, San Diego 0.

MONTAÑA 77— Mesina 22, Echavez 21, Mamaril 8, David 7, Salvador 6, Alfad 4, Marucot 3, Misola 2, Salvacion 2, Coronel 2, Sayon 0.

Quarters: 25-15, 51-29, 69-57, 84-77

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1995, Jennifer Rosales shot a 72 to post a 4-stroke victory over Wang Li Yu in the China Ladies Open in Guandong Province, China. Also today in 1987, Mike Potenciano and Johnny Tan beat their opponents to rule the 4th Philippine International Karting Association at the Kartway.



AL Magpayo of the LBC Batangas Blades (right) makes a layup off Montaña Jewel defenders Billy Mamaril (partly hidden) and Gary David during their PBL Challenge Cup tussle yesterday at the Pasig Sports Complex. LBC won, 84-77. JIM GUIAO PUNZALAN

Bryant scores 2nd straight triple-double as Lakers win

LOS ANGELES—Kobe Bryant had his second straight triple-double, and Devean George scored six of his career-high 25 points in overtime Sunday as the Los Angeles Lakers rallied for a 98-95 victory over the Portland Trail Blazers.

Bryant had 33 points, 14 rebounds and 12 assists to become the first Lakers player with consecutive triple-doubles since Magic Johnson in March 1991.

Bryant had 33 points, a career-high 15 rebounds and 12 assists in a 108-93 victory over the Clippers on Friday night.

Two baskets by George and a 3-pointer by Brian Shaw gave the Lakers a 92-85 lead with 3:13 remaining in overtime.

But the Blazers fought back, and a three-point play by Derek Anderson with 1:48 remaining drew them within one.

Bryant made a basket and Anderson, who scored eight of his 24 points in overtime, made two free throws before George hit a pair of foul shots with 16.7 seconds left to complete the scoring.

Scottie Pippen missed a 3-pointer with about 5 seconds left and Bryant got the rebound. The Blazers didn't have time to foul before the game ended.

Anderson made a 22-foot jumper as time expired to tie it at 85-85 and force overtime.

Clippers 74, Pistons 72

In Los Angeles, Michael Olowokandi had 19 points and tied a career-high with 20 rebounds to lead Los Angeles over Detroit for its first victory of the season.

Elton Brand added 17 points and 13 rebounds for the Clippers, who avoided their second 0-3 start in five years.

Richard Hamilton led Detroit, which had won two consecutive games, with 25 points. Clifford Robinson added 13 points, but missed a 3-pointer at the buzzer that would have won the game. Ben Wallace had 16 rebounds.

COMPLETE RESULTS

LA Clippers 74, Detroit 72; Miami 88, Sacramento 78; Seattle 91, Utah 77; LA Lakers 98, Portland 95 (OT). *AP*

Champions League begins Nov. 10

GAMES NOV. 10 *(Makati Coliseum)*
1 p.m.—DLSU vs UB
3 p.m.—UST vs UM

DE LA Salle University battles University of Baguio and Santo Tomas U clashes with University of Manila on Nov. 10 when the Champions League 2002 unfolds at the Makati Coliseum.

The Green Archers, who lost a three-game series to archrival Ateneo in the last UAAP championship, and the UB Cardinals collide at 1 p.m.

The UST Growling Tigers and the Naascu titlist UM Hawks meet at 3 p.m.

Conceived by multititled coach Joe Lipa, the Champions League is a developmental project designed not only to crown the nation's best collegiate team but to provide amateur basketball a pool of talents for future national teams.

"All the best players from all the best collegiate teams in the country will be on parade," said Lipa. "I wouldn't be surprised if an RP Juniors team gets formed even before the tournament is over."

SPORTSTV

Compiled by L. Manguiat

Golf: The Tour Championship, 2 p.m. (r), Star Sports

Pool: 1996 St Andrews Cup - Steve Davis vs Jimmy White, 5 p.m. (r), ESPN

World Pool Masters 2002, 7 p.m., ESPN

Tennis: BNP Paribas Masters, 9 a.m. (r) and 7 p.m., Star Sports

American Football: NFL Yearbook - 2001 Miami Dolphins, 8:30 a.m., Green Bay Packers, 9 a.m. (r - 8:30 p.m.), ESPN

NFL Blast, 9:30 a.m., ESPN

NFL - Miami Dolphins vs Green Bay Packers, 10 a.m., ESPN

NFL Beginner's Guide To American Football, 1:30 p.m. (r), ESPN

Horse Racing: Melbourne Cup 2002, 11:30 a.m. (r - 10 p.m.), Star Sports

Motor Sports: 2002 F1 Highlights Season Review, 8 p.m. (r), Star Sports

Billiards: 2001 Wheel Chair Billiards, 6 p.m. (r), Soccer: EPL - Newcastle United vs Middlesbrough, 7 a.m. (r), Star Sports

EPL Highlights, 2 p.m., ESPN, 6 p.m., Star Sports

IRAQIS ARE NEXT

RP chessers gun for Top 20 spot

BLED, Slovenia—The Philippines, reinvigorated by an extra day's rest, tackles Iraq in the ninth round of the 35th Chess Olympiad on Monday.

Mired in the 40th to 51st places with 17.5 points, the Filipinos are not taking any chances against the Iraqis, who stunned the Latvian, 2.5-1.5 during the eighth round last Saturday.

GM-candidate Mark Paragua, the team's second highest scorer, primed up for Monday's action by sweeping a rapid tournament with many grandmasters, including Joey Antonio and Bong Villamayor.

"The boys are in high spirits. They are ready to make the jump into the last three rounds. We are positioned well with six rounds to go," said Philippine captain Samuel Estimo.

The team has trained its sight on stopping two key Iraqi players–International Master Sarsam Saad (5/6) and Fide Master Ali Galtea (3/6), who upset grandmaster Normandas Meizis of Latvia for his second straight victory.

A lopsided win will bring the Filipinos within range of the Top 20 where it must float there to be in position to surge into the Top 10.

A similar tactic helped China in the 2000 Istanbul Olympiad, where they rocketed into the top by routing Belarus in the last round.

For the women, who are in the 43rd to 51st places, hurdling the Canadians, who are led by emigres from the former Soviet Union, is an event tougher deal.

The Canadians are led by Nava Starr, Dins Kagramanov and Dinara Khaziyeva. Kagramanov might not suit up for the match against the Philippines since she is pursuing an international master result, Canadian team sources said.

Grandmaster Arianne Caoili must check a three-game losing slump, Beverly Mendoza must get back on the winning track and Joy Lomibao steady enough to hold to bottom.

GMA guest in Dancesport championships

WITH President Macapagal-Arroyo as the invited guest of honor, the weeklong activities of the Asia Pacific Dancesport Championships hosted by the International Dancesport Federation and Dancesport Council of the Philippines wind up on Saturday, Nov. 9, at the Philsports Arena.

Featuring world-class dancers and licensed international adjudicators from 20 countries, the blue-ribbon event is being held under the joint auspices of Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain and DSCP president Becky Garcia and sponsored by the PSC, Philippine Olympic Committee, Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office, Pagcor, Philippine Airlines, Edsa Shangri-La, Dance Exchange, Pagoda Philippines, Carlines Transporatation and ABC-5.

"Dancesport has indeed gone a long, long way," said Ms Garcia, who has been at the helm since 1996 of the only amateur body for dance recognized by the Philippine Olympic Committee. She is assisted by DSCP board members lawyer Noel Laman, chair; Jun Herrera, vice president; lawyer Jo Saliva, secretary general; Gloria Alcala; treasurer; and council directors lawyer Andy Fornier, Marvie Cojuangco Yulo, Prof. Naomi Enriquez, Tonet Lagdameo, Gen. Sonny Yan, Edward Hayco, Ruby Co, Emma Nieto, Chona Mercado and Joel Ocsena.

MACAPAGAL

Through the years, dancesport has taken enormous strides. Most recently, young dance atheltes Renier Mercado and Judity Ann Melencio put the Philippines in the international sports map by winning the gold medals in the junior standard and Latin categories of the Japan Superstar Championships in Tokyo. While in the 15th Singapore Lion City International Championships, another Filipino youthful pair–John Erolle Melencio and Krystel Tadeo–won first place in the Youth Latin event together with Brian and Karla Ocana (Youth standard) and veterans Brian Calo and Ena Ledesma (Grade A Latin).

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Narvasa dogs Woolpert, slams Dole

By June Navarro

THE BASKETBALL Coaches Assocition of the Philippines is ready to seek help from the Court of Appeals if it fails to get a favorable response on the cancelation of Talk N Text American coach Paul Woolpert's work permit.

BCAP president Chito Narvasa yesterday said they would file an appeal to the Department of Labor and Employment this week asking for the revocation of Woolpert's Dole-issued alien employment permit.

But should the BCAP's plea again fall on deaf ears much like what happened to the case of American coach Bill Bayno, Narvasa said they would immediately haul Woolpert's case to the Court of Appeals.

The Dole reportedly issued Woolpert a work permit, infuriating the BCAP, which claimed the public should be notified by publishing Woolpert's request on at least two national dailies of general circulation.

WOOLPERT

"The Dole has the tendency to flip-flop on its resolutions. We will wait for the Dole's decision on our appeal and if nothing happens, the case will be brought to CA," said Narvasa, who recently met with the BCAP's board of directors regarding the Woolpert issue.

Narvasa, however, said the BCAP would still exhaust all efforts to gain a favorable response from the Dole, a move he stressed would oblige labor officials to hand down a decision.

"We'll use all the proper means to force them (Dole officials) to make a decision so that they won't offer any excuses when we bring the case to the CA," said Narvasa.

Once the CA decides on the matter, Narvasa said it would serve as an established rule applicable to similar cases in the future.

"That's the problem. We don't have a law that answers to these kinds of cases," said Narvasa.

Narvasa added the BCAP would try to find out if the failure of Woolpert's camp to notify the public through newspaper advertisements is a blatant act of disregard for the law.

"We have to find that out. If it does, Woolpert is carrying an invalid permit," he said.

MARTES: "I felt really bad." PDI PHOTO

Marathon champion prays for miracle

By Marc Anthony Reyes

CHRISTABEL Martes was in the middle of her morning workout when she heard the news that she might not get the chance to defend her Southeast Asian Games gold medal in marathon.

She got the news through her cell phone which she carries even while negotiating Benguet's rolling roads. Though she said she could not remember shedding tears when she heard the news, the 23-year-old Martes said she suddenly felt bad and decided to cut the session short.

"Of course I felt really bad, sir," Martes told the Inquirer. "It means I won't get the chance to defend my gold medal."

The country's top long-distance runner, who is a graduate of B.S. Secondary Education at the Benguet State University, said she is counting on a "miracle" for her sport to be included in the Vietnam SEA Games.

Though she can compete in the 10,000m and 5,000m which are held in the oval, Martes said it's going to be a big adjustment on her part to shift from marathon to oval races.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit earlier said the Vietnam organizers are firm in their decision to scrap marathon, among other sports, for lack of viable venue and technical know-how.

But a POC official said Dayrit is likely to reiterate his previous proposal for the SEA Games Federation to come up with a list of permanent events during the biennial Games.

The move hopes to prevent host countries from wantonly removing and putting in sport disciplines to boost their chances for the overall championship.

Already, the clamor for the POC to lobby hard for the events which Vietnam excluded has gathered momentum.

Tennis association head Buddy Andrada said he will address the POC general assembly later this month to "pressure" Dayrit to fight not only for bowling and golf, but also for marathon.

"He (Dayrit), being the father of the POC, must fight for all the national sports association which are his kids," said Andrada.

Andrada also challenged Dayrit to show "true leadership" and convince the SEAG Federation that the POC is serious in its bid to include what he termed as "bonafide sports" in the SEA Games family.

Lopez, Aldeguer off to Mexico

TWO young Filipino triathletes—Kaye Katherine Lopez and Christopher Aldeguer—will fly to Cancun, Mexico tomorrow to compete in the ITU World Triathlon Championships on Nov. 9.

They will be accompanied by Tomas Carrasco Jr., president of the Triathlon Association of the Philippines and ITU Executive Board member.

Carrasco, who was also the Philippine delegation chef de mission to the recent Busan Asian Games, will report on the growth of the sport in the Asian continent.

Five new international events have been added to the ITU program in Asia—two in China, two in Japan and one in Malaysia. In addition, four of the eight leg Asia Cup series are also ITU point races.

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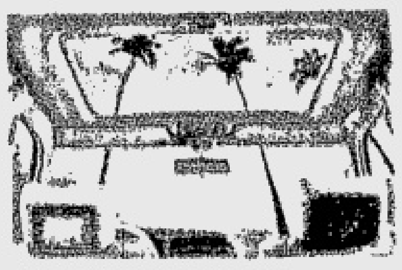

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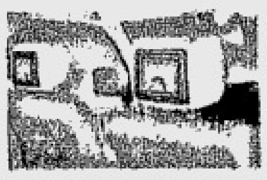

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METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

SUN VALLEY, PARAÑAQUE

'Cops behind shabu distribution'

By Christian V. Esguerra

AUTHORITIES have uncovered two big shabu distribution centers in Barangay Sun Valley, Parañaque, where police had raided on Friday night a sophisticated drug laboratory.

Active and discharged policemen could be behind the drug peddling in Cherry East and Culdesac, an area full of crisscrossing dirt roads and shanties, according to Barangay Sun Valley Chair Robert Guevara.

"We're talking of kilos here, not just a few grams (of shabu)," he told reporters at the Southern Police District.

He said that the area had long been believed to be a haven of illegal drugs.

Quoting intelligence sources from the police, Guevara yesterday said it could not yet be determined if the illegal drugs had been manufactured at the shabu laboratory which was raided last Friday.

He said the raid confirmed the large-scale drug peddling in Cherry East and Culdesac.

But barangay authorities could not penetrate the areas because police officers are supposedly behind the distribution of illegal drugs there, Guevarra said.

"The problem is that policemen are involved," he said.

The shabu laboratory was inside a mansion on Hemlock Street at the Executive Heights Village in Sun Valley.

A certain couple named Mr. and Mrs. Lee began renting the house registered in the name of Teddy Monasterio on Nov. 6 last year, Guevara said.

"At first, neighbors didn't notice anything suspicious about the couple's activities," he said. "(The Lees) hardly socialized with the neighbors but they regularly paid the monthly dues for the homeowners' association."

Guevara said barangay officials found out about the drug laboratory after residents began complaining about a "strange odor" coming from the house on Hemlock Street.

He said the residents last noticed the fumes on Sept. 30.

"The operators were wise enough to choose a house located in front of a dumpsite," Guevarra said. "That way, people would think that the fumes were coming from the garbage."

Members of the Parañaque police and the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency seized at least 68 kilos of ephedrine, a few grams of shabu, and sophisticated drug-making equipment during the raid.

The laboratory's caretaker, Bin Xu Zi, 30, was arrested before dawn Friday.

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"I WAS SHOCKED," says Diana Zubiri of the mayor's move.

Abalos 'over-acting, exaggerated,' says bold star Zubiri

By Leah Salterio

BOLD star Diana Zubiri called Mandaluyong City Mayor Ben Abalos "over-acting" and "exaggerated" after he filed charges of grave public scandal and indecent exposure against her.

ABALOS/ A24

No suspect yet

By Leila B. Salaverria

POLICE have yet to find a suspect in the slaying of Jollibee crew member Melba Espalardo, 20, who was stabbed dead 11 days ago at the overpass of the MRT Guadalupe station in Makati.But police have invited three men for questioning, according to SPO4 Leonardo Timtiman, head of the Makati Police's homicide division.

Timtiman, however, said that the three men were not considered as suspects. He said that the three are not MRT employees, but are residents of Laperal compound in Makati who have criminal records.

The three were released after questioning.

Timtiman said that police are still looking for substantial leads in the case.

NO SUSPECT/ A24

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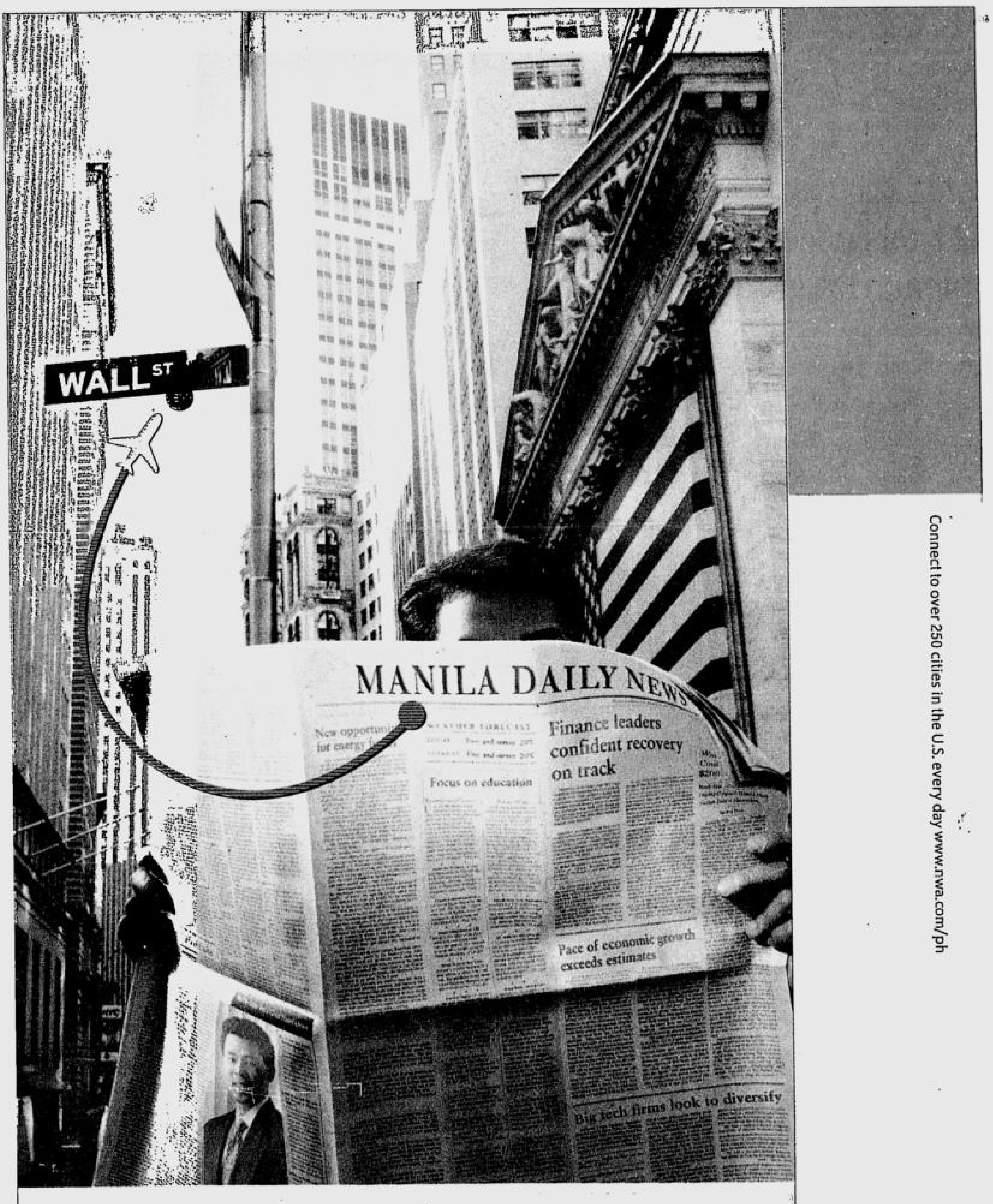
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X-shaped feet
Before After
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Bus bombing suspect charged with murder

By Alcuin Papa

CHARGES of two counts of murder and physical injuries were filed yesterday against the suspect in the bus bombing in Balintawak, Quezon City last month.

The Central Police District and the Western Police District filed the charges against construction worker Jerry Minalang, 37, a native of Makaguiling, Sultan Kudarat and a resident of Bagumbayan, Libis, Quezon City, before the Quezon City prosecutors' office.

Assistant City Prosecutor Pedro Catral has recommended no bail for Minalang.

The charges were filed after witnesses Julius Sayson and Jocelyn Cruz identified Minalang as the man who got down the Golden Hi-way Transit bus along Edsa just before a bomb exploded inside the vehicle last Oct. 18.

Sayson and Cruz survived the explosion.

Police also said one of the witnesses had seen Minalang point a gadget at the bus.

The witness told police that light had flashed from the contraption before the explosion.

Aside from the two counts of murder and physical injuries, charges of illegal possession of firearms were also filed against Minalang.

The suspect was arrested last Oct. 28 by members of the Western Police District in Libis, Quezon City for illegal possession of a .38 pistol.

During his tactical interrogation, Minalang supposedly told WPD policemen that he was a former commander for the Moro Islamic Liberation Front.

But Minalang later complained that he was tortured into admitting responsibility for the Balintawak bus bombing. He also allegedly admitted that he had planned to bomb the SM Fairview and SM North Edsa malls.

National Capital Region Police Office director Deputy Director Gen. Reynaldo Velasco ordered an investigation into allegations that Minalang was tortured.

Speculations also arose that WPD and CPD policemen had caught the wrong man when subsequent checks with the Armed Forces Southern Command had revealed that the Jerry Minalang they knew to be a commander of the MILF was still in the South.

But when CPD director Sr. Supt. Napoleon Castro asked witnesses to identify the suspected bomber in a police line-up, they positively identified Minalang.

A background check on Minalang also revealed that he had been on probation for drug charges.

Bulacan man who stabbed wife shot dead

PULILAN, Bulacan—Policemen shot and killed a man who stabbed and wounded his live-in partner in Barangay Poblacion here on Sunday night.

Reports said Lito Jade, 23, a driver of the Publicist Inter-Brand Trucking and Warehouse Inc., died from a bullet wound in the chest.

Police said Jade took his live-in partner, Marilyn Macaste, hostage after they quarreled over money. The couple has three children.

SPO4 Gregorio Lopez said he was forced to shoot Jade after the suspect stabbed Macaste in the left side the body.

Macaste was taken to the Our Lady of Mercy Hospital here and later to the provincial hospital in Malolos.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

21 Pasay cops plead not guilty

By Christian V. Esguerra

TWENTY-ONE Pasay policemen pleaded not guilty of killing a 4-year-old boy during a bungled hostage rescue operation last May.

All but four of the policemen posted bail and, in effect, pleaded not guilty in the death of Dexter Balala last May 31, according to Jomark Belarmino, officer in charge of criminal cases filed before Pasay Regional Trial Court Branch 113.

Supt. Eduardo De la Cerna, former Pasay chief who was forced to resign after leading the bungled operation, posted a bail of P10,000. The rest of the accused filed motions for reduction of bail and shelled out P5,000 each.

De la Cerna and his men are facing charges of reckless imprudence resulting in homicide after the Office of the Deputy Ombudsman for the Military junked the resolution of the Pasay prosecutors' office.

The prosecutors had earlier recommended the dismissal of the charges since investigators supposedly failed to identify the officers who actually fired the bullet that killed the boy.

But in a six-page recommendation, the Ombudsman ruled that "it was not necessary to determine who actually fired their weapons."

"The circumstances surrounding the case will show that the respondents ostensibly failed to perform their duty with precaution and due care," the Ombudsman ruled.

"The (policemen) waited for the actual danger before they even decided to act on it."

Jealous suicide

By Philip C. Tubeza

JEALOUS of the muscular men that his live-in partner saw at the Manila City Jail every time she visited her son, scavenger Mario B. Tusi yesterday killed himself in their rented house in Tondo, Manila.

Tusi, 29, of Katuparan Condominium, Vitas, Tondo, Manila, was found dead at 10 a.m. yesterday by his live-in partner Jesusa, said Detective Ed Paterno of the Western Police District homicide section.

Police said Tusi had accused Jesusa of having sex with the city jail inmates.

Jesusa denied his accusations, saying she went there to visit her son.

Police said Tusi had been drinking since Sunday night and quarrelled with Jesusa at 8 a.m. yesterday, accusing her again of sleeping with the inmates.

No suspect . . .

From page A23

"We are still in the progress of building up a case," he yesterday said in an interview.

Espalardo was buried in her native Quezon before All Saints' Day, police said.

She was found dead on the morning of Oct. 25 with with several stab wounds in her body.

Her pants were pulled down, but police said that she had not been raped.

Espalardo had left the house of her boyfriend Mark Anthony Abaroa in Guadalupe Nuevo and was on her way home to Pasay when she was killed.

Less than an hour before a security guard found her body, Espalardo had sent her boyfriend a text message complaining that the MRT was still close.

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PROTEST BUS
After police dispersed their picket line in their Quezon City terminal, workers of the JAC Liner bus company hold a protest rally in the firm's terminal in Pasay City.
ERIK ARAZAS

Suspect in cops' ambush falls

By Alcuin Papa

A SUSPECT in the ambush of the three Quezon City policemen last month was arrested yesterday in the city.

A manhunt by the Central Police District led to the arrest of Kamaluding Saumay, 21, of Payatas, Quezon City, at about 2 a.m. near his house.

Saumay was arrested after he figured in a shootout with a rival street gang in the area. A homemade gun or *sumpak* was found on him.

He was positively identified by Insp. Jacinto Basilio, SPO4 Loreto Basilio, SPO1 Miguel Gayaguy and Oliver Victoria, all of whom said Saumay was involved in their ambush in Barangay Payatas-A last Oct. 6.

SUSPECT Kamaluding Saumay. JOAN BONDOC

The policemen, all from CPD Police Station 6, had been conducting an anti-narcotics operation when unidentified men fired at them. The policemen were injured.

Saumay was charged with illegal possession of firearms and four counts of frustrated murder before the Quezon City Prosecutor's Office.

Why MILF doesn't have terrorist label

ON TARGET

Ramon Tulfo

IF THE the Communist Party of the Philippines (CPP) and the New People's Army (NPA) have been listed as terrorist organizations by the United States and European Union countries, why can't the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) be also placed in the same category?

The US recently linked the MILF to the Al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiah terrorist networks.

So, since it has been linked to two foreign terrorist groups, the next move should be to place a terrorist tag on it. But the US is not about to do that yet because the Philippine government is asking it to withhold placing the MILF in the list of terrorist groups.

* * *

Despite the strong denials of the MILF, it is a terrorist group because it supports the Abu Sayyaf, a local terrorist group, and the Pentagon gang, a kidnap-for-ransom gang.

Its latest caper, according to US intelligence, is training members of Al Qaeda and Jemaah Islamiah in its camp in Lanao del Sur.

The MILF is a liar. And what do they say about a liar? He stabs you in the back as soon as you turn it to him.

* * *

The government is hedging in making MILF a terrorist group because it is supported by some Middle East countries.

The government is like the husband who, despite being told by neighbors and relatives that his wife has made a cuckold of him, continues to live with her. The husband's reason is probably that the unfaithful wife has what other women don't have; she's good at S-E-X.

The government can't afford to displease the Middle East countries by placing a terrorist tag on the MILF. The reason is spelled O-I-L.

* * *

The CPP and NPA don't have countries supporting them that our government can't afford to displease.

So, the government doesn't care whether these revolutionary groups are listed as terrorists by the US and the European Union.

Come to think of it, the NPA engages in less terrorism than does the MILF. The communists don't bomb public places that kill many innocent civilians.

* * *

Next time, the police should avoid naming suspects in a criminal case while it is yet to be solved.

Even if the police clear them later on, the damage to their reputation has been done. Many people who read the story linking them to the crime may not be able to read the story clearing them.

In the early part of the investigation of the robbery-slaying of Arturo Eupeña, the guy who won P19 million in the lotto, the Antipolo police linked the victim's wife, Leticia, and their adopted son, Reynan, a homosexual, to the crime.

* * *

The public, given to stereotyping, readily believed the police as far as Reynan, a beautician, was concerned. The misconception is that gays cannot be trusted.

"*Basta bakla hindi dapat pagkatiwalaan* (Gays should not be trusted," said an officemate in the radio station I work for.

Just because some gays are not trustworthy doesn't mean all gays shouldn't be trusted.

* * *

The police even made a very big mistake in making Ms Eupeña a suspect since it was she who actually won the lotto.

She left home before her husband was robbed and killed because she couldn't stand his excessive drinking with his buddies.

The real culprits have been arrested one after the other. The victim's brand new van was recovered from one of them.

* * *

Supt. Jose Dayco, Antipolo police chief, said he earlier tagged the victim's wife and their adopted son as a "matter of police practice."

That's a lot of cow dung! A good investigator does not divulge his leads until after he has cracked the case.

If I were Leticia or Reynan Eupeña, I would sue Dayco in court for besmirching my reputation.

* * *

And since we're now on the subject of crime investigation, a policeman assigned to a case should not wait for witnesses to come to him.

The investigator should go to the scene of the crime to have a picture of how it was committed. At the crime scene, he can find possible eyewitnesses. If the victim is in the hospital, the investigator should go to his hospital bed to ask questions.

Our police investigators are mostly lazy. They rely on the victim or his relatives to bring witnesses to them.

Many cases are left unsolved because police investigators are lazy.

* * *

The excuse of most investigators that they don't have the vehicle to go to the crime scene is flimsy, to say the least.

It is not the fault of the victim or his witnesses that the police don't have the wherewithal to investigate a criminal case.

Woman rescued from hostage-taker husband

By Tina Santos

THREE bullets yesterday stopped a man from killing his wife whom he had held hostage in a jealous rage in their house in Malabon City.

The man, Jerry Arnado, 22, is in hospital for gunshot wounds in the head and neck after members of the local Special Weapons and Tactics team rushed at him to rescue his wife Joan, 21.

Malabon City police chief Supt. Pete Ramos said that Arnado, of Gozon Compound, Letre, Barangay Tonsuya, Malabon, arrived in their house at about 3 a.m. yesterday, drunk and apparently high on drugs. He said that Arnado started a fight with his wife, accusing her of being unfaithful to him.

The couple's neighbors told police that they heard Joan shouting for help and screaming that her husband was poking a screwdriver at her.

Arnado was holding the screwdriver to Joan's neck and screaming furiously when police arrived, Ramos said.

Authorities negotiated with Arnado for 30 minutes, but he grew restless and stabbed his wife in the neck and abdomen, Ramos said. Arnado also threatened to blow up their house by igniting their liquefied petroleum gas tank if police came closer to rescue his wife, he added.

Police then shot Arnado three times, hitting him in the face and neck, and saving his wife Joan.

Both Arnado and Joan were brought to hospital.

Abalos . . .

From page A23

Abalos, through his public information officer Lourdes Macaraig, had filed the case against Zubiri following the starlet's controversial magazine pictorial along the Edsa-Shaw Boulevard flyover on Tuesday last week.

Zubiri had posed in a two-piece bikini for a pictorial for FHM Magazine, whose readers are mostly men.

The bold star was accused of violating the agreement in the permit from the mayor's office, which limited her wardrobe to shorts or pants and blouse or tube.

The complaint was endorsed to the office of the city prosecutor by Chief Inspector Plaridel Justo, head of the Mandaluyong police criminal investigation division.

"I was shocked," Zubiri told the INQUIRER. "This is the first time I got involved in a lawsuit. I never even fought with anyone before."

Mandaluyong City officials were apparently scandalized by her display of flesh.

The pictorial attracted a big crowd on the flyover and reportedly caused a traffic jam. Photographer Xander Angeles took sexy shots of Zubiri for the glossy magazine.

However, Macaraig said wearing skimpy getup was not part of the permit for the pictorial.

Zubiri insisted there was nothing offensive or lewd about the pictorial.

"They approved the pictorial and they gave us a permit to shoot," she pointed out. "They shouldn't take it against us.

"The pictorial was over in less than 30 minutes. People in jeepneys were even waving while we were shooting."

Seiko Films big boss Robbie Tan, who is producing Zubiri's movie "Kasiping," insists the bold star shouldn't apologize to Abalos.

"She was not at fault and she did nothing wrong," Tan said.

The producer is contemplating the filing of a counter-charge against Abalos in behalf of his contract star.

"He (Abalos) is simply grandstanding," Tan said. "Diana was not nude in the pictorial. What she did was not a grave public scandal."

But Tan later said he might as well capitalize on the recent controversy. He said Zubiri's next movie for Seiko will be titled "Reyna ng Flyover."

Zubiri has a three-year, 10-movie contract with Seiko Films.

FHM editor in chief Eric Ramos wrote a letter of apology to Abalos and even offered to show the mayor the Polaroid shots of the pictorial to prove that Zubiri's photos were not indecent.

Ramos, however, promised Abalos that the magazine would not publish the shots of Zubiri in the two-piece bikini.

Why scary movies click with viewers

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

LAST Thursday, we viewed the results of the "13 Scariest Movies of All Time" survey on the E! channel, and were gratified to see that eight of those ultra-spooky productions were also in the list we ran here last week.

The countdown on E! began with "Nightmare on Elm Street" at No. 13, followed by "Alien" at 12, and "Carrie" at 11. No. 10 was "Scream," which was cited for its great-looking young cast and the effective way that it combined horror and humor.

At No. 9 was "The Texas Chainsaw Massacre," directed by **Tobe Hooper** in 1974. The movie is described as "a sweet-inducing, claustrophobic, unrelenting suspense-comic-horror film, classic and influential."

No. 8, the 1931 "Dracula" by **Tod Browing**, starring **Bela Lugosi**. No.7, **Steven Spielberg's** "Jaws." No.6, "Poltergeist," again by Tobe Hooper. The director is credited for his ability to mix genres, like horror, action and fantasy, all in one movie.

The final five: No. 5 "The Omen" by **Richard Donner**. The film about "Lucifer's little boy" is said to be particularly scarifying because it's about a seemingly innocent child who turns out to be evil incarnate.

No. 4, **John Carpenter's** "Halloween," described as "a low-budget chiller about a psychotic murderer who struck on Halloween as a child, and threatens to do so again 15 years later. Well made, with lots of scares, plus in-joke references for film buffs."

No. 3, **Stanley Kubrick's** "The Shining." Yes, the much-admired film master also got his kicks out of scaring people out of their wits, with **Jack Nicholson** turning in an over-the-top performance that still terrifies viewers to this day.

No. 2, **Alfred Hitchcock's** "Psycho", with **Anthony Perkins, Janet Leigh** and **Vera Miles**. The film's shower scene was so terrifying that some viewers confessed that after seeing the film, they didn't dare to take a bath for weeks!

Finally, the grand champion at No. 1, **William Friedkin's** "The Exorcist." When the movie was first screened in 1973, there was "widespread hysteria—grown men were running out of theaters in sheer terror, or fainting in the aisles."

Viewers confessed to having terrible dreams after they saw the movie, which is about the devil taking possession of a young girl (**Linda Blair**). They said they were left "completely vulnerable because the film showed that evil is much more terrifying than serial killers, because it can't be put behind bars."

The question, of course, is why people love to watch horror movies, even if they are filled with such dread. Psychologists say that the perverse appeal of scary films harks as far back as our ancestors, the cavemen who were exposed to danger every day of their lives. To "rehearse" what they would do when their lives were threatened they would verbalize their fears and physicalize them in tales of monsters and ogres, which they would then vanquish in a ritualistic way that would make their real-life terrors manageable.

Then there's the sexual element that makes scary movies so perversely enjoyable to watch. When Dracula sinks his sharp pearly whites into a beautiful damsel's proffered neck, there's possession, mystery, sharing, consummation and ecstasy all at the same time.

Finally, spooky films enable viewers to confront and control their own anger, aggression and capacity for violence. They relate, not just to the victims, but also to the murderer and monsters on the screen as well.

Hannibal Lecter may be a serial killer and cannibal, but he has more than his share of "fans." And yet they don't act in a violent manner, because he's already done it for them—with no terrible consequences for themselves and others.

Without the safety value that scary movies provide, this could be an even more dangerous world to live in. There, but for Freddy Kruger, Nosferatu and Norman Bates, go we!

Festival of Trees

PHILIPPINE Business for Social Progress and the Makati Garden Club present Festival of Trees on Nov. 14 at the Manila Polo Club in Makati. This year's festival showcases eight theme trees and a painting by Anita Magsaysay-Ho that will be auctioned off to raise funds for beneficiaries in Maqueda Bay, Western Samar, and Olango Island off Mactan, Cebu. Other

WHY/A29

Araneta Center
ENTERTAINMENT GUIDE

ALI MALL CINEPLEX 7

Ali 1	SINGSING NI LOLA
Ali 2	JEANNIE BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
Ali 3	RED DRAGON
Ali 4	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
Ali 5	BALISTIC ECK VS' SEVER
Ali 6	NINE MORNING
Ali 7	HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

FARMERS PLAZA CINEMAS

Farmers 1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
Farmers 2	SINGSING NI LOLA

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RED DRAGON R18 11:50,2:15,4:50, 7:25,10:00	PLUTO NASH P13 12:45,2:55,5:05, 7:15,9:30	SWEET HOME ALABAMA P13 12:50,3:10,5:30, 7:50,10:10

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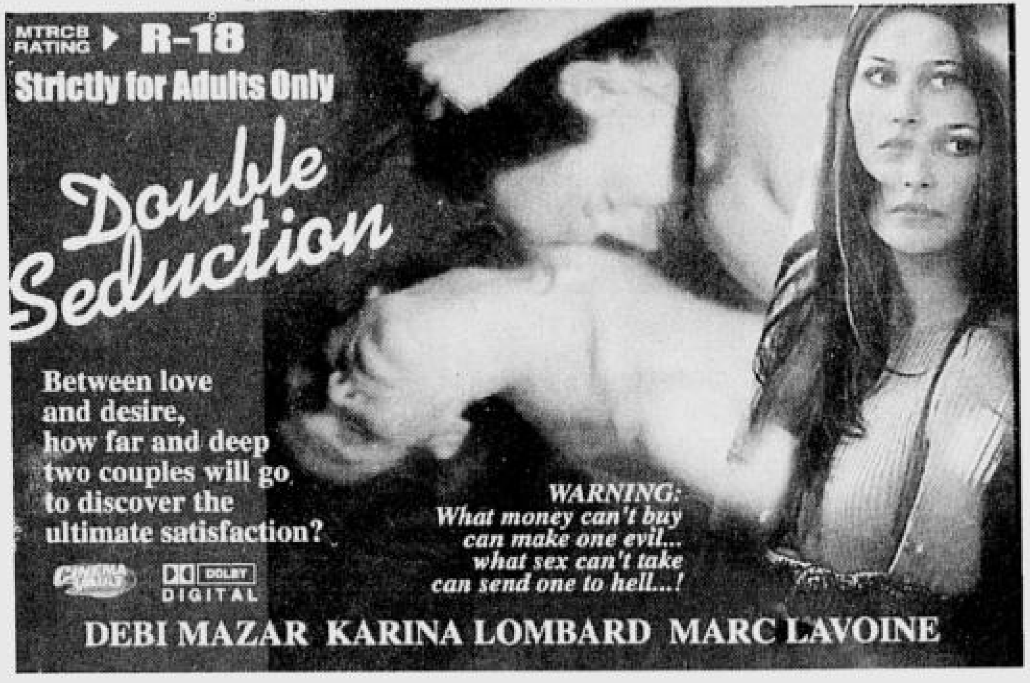

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Entertaining Kidnap Thriller

Professional kidnappers Joe and Cheryl Hickey (Kevin Bacon, *HOLLOW MAN* and Courtney Love, *PEOPLE VS. LARRY FLYNT*) think they have mastered a foolproof plan to extort money from wealthy families.

They kidnap the child of rich parents, hold the kid for 24 hours, keeping the mother under Joe's control while Cheryl gets the ransom from the father, who is on a trip.

• But things go very wrong when they try the scheme on Dr. and Mrs. Will Jennings (Charlize Theron, *SWEET NOVEMBER* and Stuart Townsend, *QUEEN OF THE DAMNED*), in part because their daughter Abby (Dakota Fanning, *I AM SAM*) is asthmatic, and in part because the Jennings find out more than Joe Hickley wants them to know.

OPENS TOMORROW !

OPENS TOMORROW !
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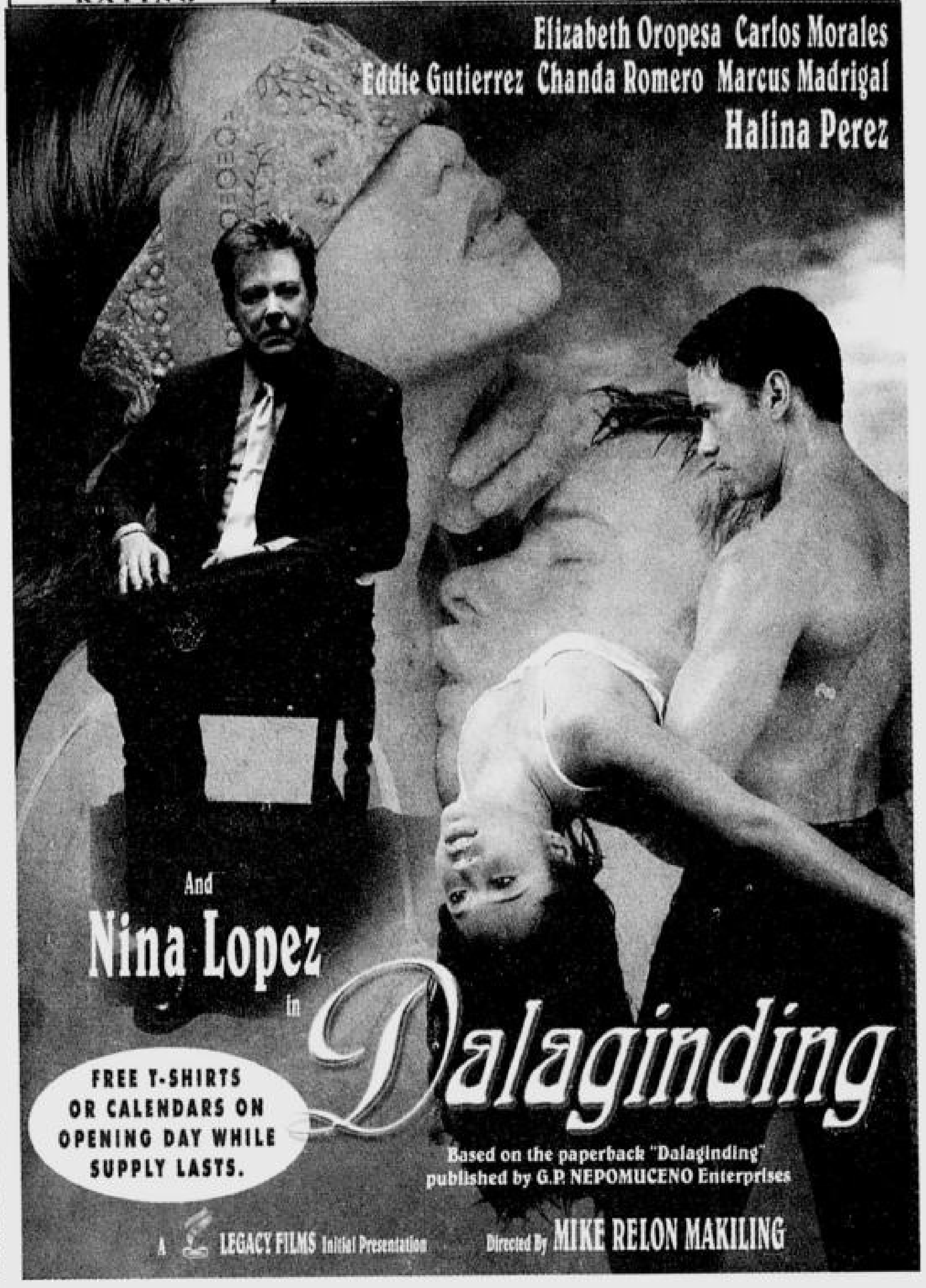

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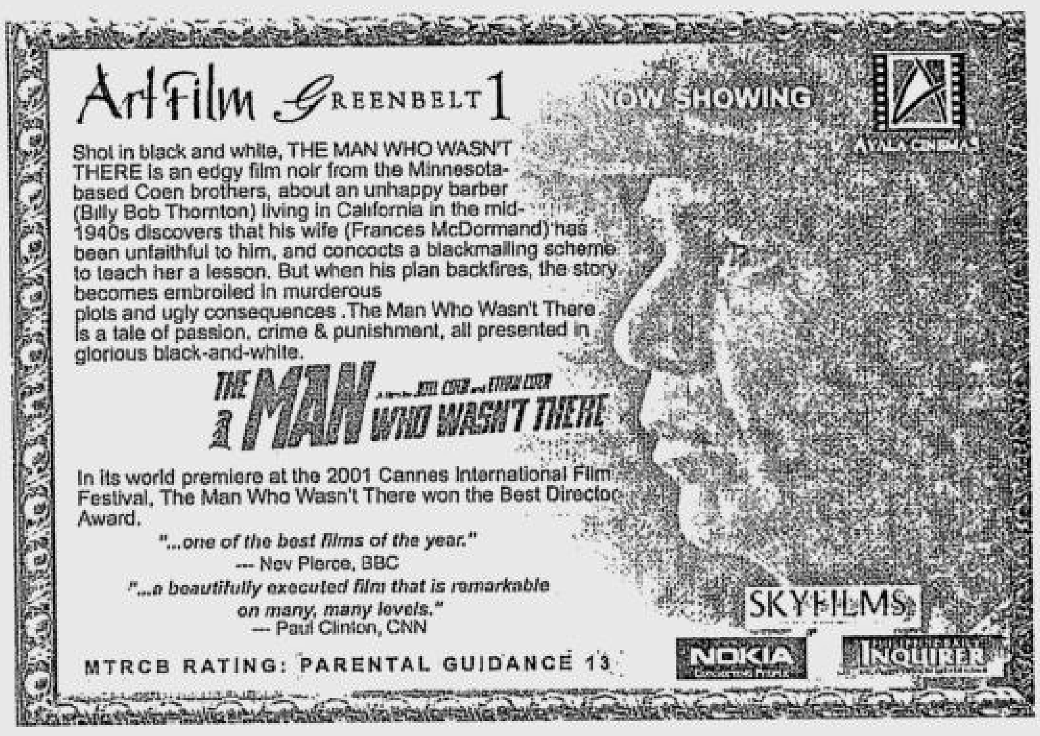

ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
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AYALA CINEMAS
Shot in black and white, THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE is an edgy film noir from the Minnesota-based Coen brothers, about an unhappy barber (Billy Bob Thornton) living in California in the mid-1940s discovers that his wife (Frances McDormand) has been unfaithful to him, and concocts a blackmailing scheme to teach her a lesson. But when his plan backfires, the story becomes embroiled in murderous plots and ugly consequences .The Man Who Wasn't There is a tale of passion, crime & punishment, all presented in glorious black-and-white.
THE MAN WHO WASN'T THERE
In its world premiere at the 2001 Cannes International Film Festival, The Man Who Wasn't There won the Best Director Award.
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MTRCB RATING: PARENTAL GUIDANCE 13
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AYALA CINEMAS
OPENS NOV. 6
ArtFilm GREENBELT 1
DARING. AWARD-WINNING. EXTRAORDINARY
PIÑERO

"Piñero" tells the story of the explosive life of a Latino icon, the poet-playwright-actor Miguel Piñero, whose urban poetry is recognized as a pre-cursor to rap and hip-hop. After doing time in hard-core Sing-Sing for petty thefts and drug dealing, Piñero's prison experiences developed into the 1974 Tony-nominated play Short Eyes. The resulting notoriety and fame was too much for the Latino bad-boy genius who retreated to the darker corners of New York City.
Starring: Benjamin Bratt, Talisa Soto, Mandy Patinkin, Rosita Moreno, Jaime Sanchez; Directed by: Leon Ichaso
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MTRCB RATING: Restricted 18 (R)
NOKIA INQUIRER SKYFILMS

THE CAST and their magnificent masks.

'The Lion King' roars on Broadway

By Leah Salterio

FIVE years after the animated Disney film was turned into a stage musical, "The Lion King" continues to draw huge crowds to the New Amsterdam Theater on Broadway's 42nd Street. Every performance, matinee or evening, is packed.

I saw "Phantom of the Opera," with its labyrinth scene showing mechanical candles sprouting onstage, the falling chandelier and the remote-controlled boat. I had never been amazed by another Broadway production, until now.

While "Miss Saigon" and "Sunset Boulevard" made my lachrymal glands work overtime, "The Lion King" kept me visually thrilled.

The opening scene, "The Circle of Life," is breathtaking, with a spectacular African setting complete with a jungle, flowers, giraffes, hyenas, elephants and, of course, lions. It was hard to blink while watching the entire spectacle. Imagine life-size giraffes dancing onstage and elephants traipsing down the aisles within arm's reach.

Lead animals

The Walt Disney Company is an expert in turning an animated film into a stage musical. They did it with "Beauty and the Beast," which remains a top Broadway draw with its colorful and magical effects. But that was easy compared to "The Lion King," where the lead players are animals.

Stage director Julie Taymor took on the challenge of turning the Disney film into a stage musicale, which industry experts initially thought was next to impossible.

Even lyricist Tim Rice admitted he was jaded when he first heard the idea of adapting "The Lion King" for the stage. But you can just imagine how amazed Rice was to see Taymor deliver the finished product.

Rice, with Elton John, wrote five original tunes for the film and added three new songs to the theater version. The score was combined with a potpourri of African-influenced music. (Another musical collaboration of Rice and John for Disney, "Aida," is now playing at the Palace Theater on Broadway's 47th Street).

The production pulsates with unmistakable African passion, but it also represents a wide range of world music, from Western scoring to African chorales to, at one point, the charleston.

Musician Mark Mancina said the musical uses 19 different types of wood flutes alone, so you can just imagine how big the musical ensemble is. If you sit in the balcony on either side of the stage, you'd be able to sit with the drummers.

Following its Broadway run, "The Lion King" debuted at the Drury Lane on London's West End. The Australian production is now in the works and will be staged starting October 2003 in Sydney, possibly with Filipinos in the cast.

Taymor also wrote additional music and lyrics, and did designs for costumes, masks and puppets. A New York critic called her work "artistic ambidexterity."

> It was hard to blink while watching the entire spectacle. Imagine life-size giraffes dancing onstage and elephants traipsing down the aisles within arm's reach

Leap of faith

Taymor was able to sustain the audience's attention all throughout the musicale, as she was careful to present it not simply as a carbon copy of the film.

"I wanted audiences to be released from their memories of the film right from the start, to take a leap of faith and imagination," she said in an interview.

One of the most powerful elements of the musicale is how the actors' masks manage to catch every nuance of the actors' emotions. The actors have total control of their masks, thanks to creator Michael Curry. You can see the anger, happiness and passion on their faces. It sounds like a simple concept, but it took hundreds of people and more than 34,000 hours to create the masks. It is puppetry at its best.

Brian Evaret Chandler plays Mufasa, the powerful king of Pride Rock. The audience immediately recognizes the character as soon as Chandler saunters on stage wearing a huge lion mask.

The mask of Scar (played by Derek Smith), the villainous brother who wants to take over Pridelands, is a completely twisted face, sculpted with one eyebrow up and spiky hair. The mask conjures terror. But Scar has his funny moments, too.

Stage actress Sheila Gibbs, an original cast member, makes a gender switch and plays the wise baboon Rafiki. There are three other female characters in the story: Simba's mother Sarabi, the female hyena Shenzi and Simba's friend Nala.

Two of the most well-loved characters in the musical are the meerkat Timon (Danny Rutigliano) and the warthog Pumbaa (Tom Allan Robbins), who elicit most of the laughs. The bouncy "Hakuna Matata" number, which sees the transformation of Simba from a cub to a real lion, is amusing.

The bird Zazu, excellently puppetized by actor Adam Stein, is quite a scene-stealer.

Impressive makeup

Aside from the brilliant direction and artistic puppetry, "The Lion King" also boasts of the Tony award-winning choreography of Garth Fagan, whose earlier non-Broadway works were "Queenie Pie" and "A Midsummer Night's Dream."

In "The Lion King," Fagan depicts brilliantly the love-making scene between Simba and Nala: Two dancers in an aerial pas des deux intertwine passionately as they soared to the tune of Elton John's Oscar winner "Can You Feel the Love Tonight?"

Michael Ward's hair and makeup design are also impressive. The tribal makeup for the actors' faces complement the masks and puppets they are wearing.

The presentation of Mufasa's ghost was simply hair-raising and the unique lighting effect was jaw-dropping, created by the genius of Donald Holder.

"We projected overlapping images of crisply focused dots of light and sculpted the mask with sidelights," Holder said. If you look closely, it's merely an interplay of light and images on a huge, sculpted mask. The effect is awesome.

The stampede of a massive herd of antelopes which causes Mufasa's death is also a technical wonder.

Clifton Oliver, whose theater credits include "Pippin," "Rent" and "Grease," plays Simba in "The Lion King."

"The Lion King" offers no high-tech scenes other Broadway productions are known for. But the musical is definitely a visual thrill from beginning to end.

Rico Yan shows himself to friend

From page A30

later. With his intercession, how can it fail? Knowing Rico, the happiness of those dear to him comes first.

'Songbird Sings'

HER story is the stuff that today's telenovelas are made of. Only, hers really happened.

A whole generation of Pinoy music lovers has been witness to how it all unfolded, and to this day, our fascination with **Regine Velasquez** doesn't seem to wane. She has led a fairytale life: a gawky teenager who joined and won every amateur singing contest in every barangay in Bulacan; making small bucks as she sang her heart out in beerhouses and mahjong halls; winding up as grand champion of what was then the most important singing contest on national television, "Ang Bagong Kampeon."

Clearly it was destiny that in her small and frail frame, she packed a voice that in the 80's was unheard of. It was destiny that she was not only armed with remarkable talent but also with ambition, determination and the instinct to survive. It was destiny that the entertainment industry was ready for someone like Regine.

The songbird will be having a must-see concert for every Regine Velasquez fan. She will be doing an "all-Regine" repertoire.

Catch "Songbird Sings" at Onstage in Greenbelt 1 in Makati City on Nov. 8-9, 21-23,29-30. Tickets for P600, P900 and P1,200 are available at all Ticketworld outlets in National Bookstore branches, Tower Records Makati and Alabang, and MaxiMedia, 551-8999 and 551-7777.

Niño the father

NIÑO **Muhlach** was the picture of a proud stage father when I bumped into him and his charming Ilongga wife **Edith**, who's many years younger than he, at the first anniversary bash of "S" magazine (kudos to my dear friend and "S" editor in chief **Aster Ammoyo** for outdoing herself again).

I practically saw Onin grow up, since his cousin **Liezl** is like a sister to me. I still can't believe that the former child wonder is now a doting father. And that the former "pabling" has mellowed.

Onin exclaimed, "Have you seen my baby's milk ad? He's cuter than I! I took him to the orphanage with me when I threw a party for the kids instead of having a big birthday celebration for myself. It's an indescribable feeling. I want to have as many babies as I can. But just with my wife!" And then he laughed.

I chided Edith, "How did you make him finally behave?"

She smiled, "Nothing really. I guess it was his choice. I didn't really have to exert that much effort. We are happier than we ever imagined we would be."

Such is love. If it's meant to be, you don't even have to lift a finger. What's rightfully yours will find its way to your heart when you are ready for it. I'm more than ready but I guess my Mr. Right ain't ripe for it yet.

For feedback, e-mail friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com

What 'Santa Clause' . . .

From page A27

Allen replies, "I don't know about relationships. As I said, I'm not that fond of myself. I get very moody, isolated or disconnected. It has nothing to do with other people. It's just a discomfort in here (he points to his heart)."

So, how come co-star Elizabeth Mitchell describes him as simply adorable and that he has the most profound effect on women?

"That's true," he confirms "because I like women. My brother and I are the same in this respect. I wouldn't call us womanizers because none of us are that way. We just really like women. As much as they've been really odd in my family because my grandma is really strong and authoritative. "Most of the women in my family are not very funny women, which was really a challenge because my brother and I are funny. So we constantly made jokes at their expense and they just stare at us. My grandma was just so strange. She always accused us of being retarded. She says, 'What's wrong with you boys?' Her husband, though, is very funny.

"To help me understand women more, I studied women in college (he graduated from Western Michigan University in 1975 with a BA in TV Production). I would take any course on women in college. The school offered many women's courses and it was a great way of meeting girls. I would take any women's course that I could possibly swallow. Some of them were ridiculous but some of them were like 'Women in Business,' 'The New Feminism,' blah blah blah. And because of this, I learned a lot about girls.

Christmas with Tim

"We also used to have these dormitory sessions and just experimented where we would just listen to girls. Go figure. Men can be very dangerous when they become good listeners. You got to be very careful of what your women want because if you make men into good listeners then you have a very dangerous combination of aggression and testosterone and a good listener."

So how does he spend Christmas?

Allen answers, "I have a house near my mother's house in Michigan. On Christmas Eve, I take my daughter out and we look at the lights. Then we go to church and then everybody gathers in my mom's house. It's nine brothers or nine family members times two or three and that's just a lot of children.

"Then my mom would say, 'Not so fun, isn't it?' Don't you hate it when parents say, 'Wait until you have children yourselves.'"

Would he want to have more children?

"Oh yeah," he quickly replies. "But I wish kids came with instruction manuals. Everything else does. After six kids, I think my mom let us juggle chainsaws."

Does he want anything special for Christmas?

"Isaac and Ishmael (referring to the descendants involved in the Middle East conflict)," Tim Allen says. "If those big brothers of ours can just get along then I think we'd all be much happier."

What 'Santa Clause' wants for Christmas

By Janet Susan R. Nepales
Contributor

LOS ANGELES—"You want to work on my foot now?" actor Tim Allen asks me, half-seriously, to massage his foot as he suddenly puts his leg up on my lap during my recent interview with him.

Sans beard, and with a big smile on his face, the boyish-looking 49-year-old Allen is sitting beside me. He is dressed in a brown jacket, black pants and leather shoes. He explains how he relaxed while being made up for four hours to become Santa in "Santa Clause 2," the sequel to the 1994 family movie hit.

"I'm a very fidgety person," Allen admits. "I was able to get a masseuse to do reflexology therapy on me. She couldn't touch me much because there were people working on me for my make-up and all that but she was able to do about 30 to 45 minutes of foot massage. Now I've become addicted to it!"

This is when he props his foot up on my lap and kiddingly asks me to do a foot massage on him, to the amusement of several reporters in the room. No cookies definitely for this Santa.

Although known as a top comedian, the witty Allen is quite introspective in person. Director Michael Lembek describes him as "a very intelligent guy who can talk about any subject you think of." Actress Elizabeth Mitchell (who portrays Carol, the school principal in "Santa Clause 2") reveals that Allen is "a guy who knows how to deal with women and reduce them to gigglers."

Almost everything

Allen is one actor who can claim to have had almost everything—a top-rated TV sitcom (ABC's "Home Improvement"), a best-selling book (his humorous memoir, "Don't Stand Too Close to a Naked Man"), top grossing family movies ("The Santa Clause," "Toy Story" and "Toy Story 2") and blockbuster adult movies ("Joe Somebody" and "Big Trouble").

In his latest movie "Santa Clause 2," the comedy sequel distributed by Buena Vista Pictures, Santa (Allen) has the same problems that most adults have. He's working too much. He's not seeing his family enough. His boy's in trouble right when a big deal comes up at work. So what does Santa do?

In this movie, Allen also realizes that he needs to be hitched and get a wife before Christmas or else he cannot continue being Santa anymore.

So was it fun playing Santa Claus?

"Yes, it was," confesses Allen, who also portrays Scott Calvin (the guy next door who has played Santa for the past eight years) and the Toy Santa Claus (the make-believe Santa which the head elves made to run the North Pole while the real Santa is away) in the movie. "It was fun playing Santa Claus because the children on the set actually believed that I was the real Santa Claus. Since I didn't want to disappoint these kids, it put a tremendous amount of responsibility on my shoulders. I can't swear or get mad because the elves just gaze at me all day long and ask me all these ridiculous questions about Christmas, gifts and elves."

Too many questions

So, what did he say?

"I made up stuff," he discloses. "Whatever I said on the set, these 800 kids will tell 1,600 who will tell 3,000 so you will hear these stories that the elves don't really like vegetables; they eat fish; they eat fresh; they don't eat a lot of candy; and they don't drink or smoke."

Did they ask him for presents for Christmas?

"Quietly they did," he narrates. "They asked me if they need to send notes to Santa and that kind of thing and then these production assistants told them, 'Don't ask Santa too many questions.' The 13 or 14-year-old kids, on the other hand, said, 'He's not Santa. He's an actor.' Then I asked them, 'Are you sure I'm not Santa? Do you want to irritate Santa right now?'"

How similar is Scott Calvin's life to your real life?

"This is so much like me," he points out. "I'm friendly with my ex-wife (Laura Deibel who was his wife for 17 years) and her husband, and I'm good friends with their daughter. My ex-wife and I still see each other because we live so close together. It's almost like Scott's family."

He adds that just like Santa's world, "I live in an absolutely fake world, too. When I've got billboards all over town like now with my face on it, I could do no wrong. I could walk in any place and grab anything and my 12-year-old daughter Katherine (Kady) lives with me in this unreal world. I brought her to the press tour yesterday because I wanted her to see what this is all about."

Reminders

It's a bit like a cliché, but how does he keep his daughter's feet on the ground when she's the daughter of a rich and famous person?

The award-winning actor proclaims, "Although she is more privileged in a lot of ways, I constantly remind her about saving. I remind her about taking care of others and passing on her privilege. I remind her that the rest of it will be up to God and up to her. And eventually, it will be all up to her."

He adds, "I do bitch and moan just like anybody else if I get pushed too hard. The problem is, this country tends to treat stars like some sort of royalty and my daughter knows very well that I'm not equipped to be royalty. Every time she comes to the set, I tell her to look at what the script supervisor does. And I ask her if it is less important than what I do. Of course, it is not. However, not everybody can do everybody else's job.

"Moreover, like racing, somebody has to step into the car. Somebody has to put in a little bit of his or her person into it. That's the only difference. There's only one person's face on the camera and that would be my face. So now, my daughter understands the relationship of how things work as a team."

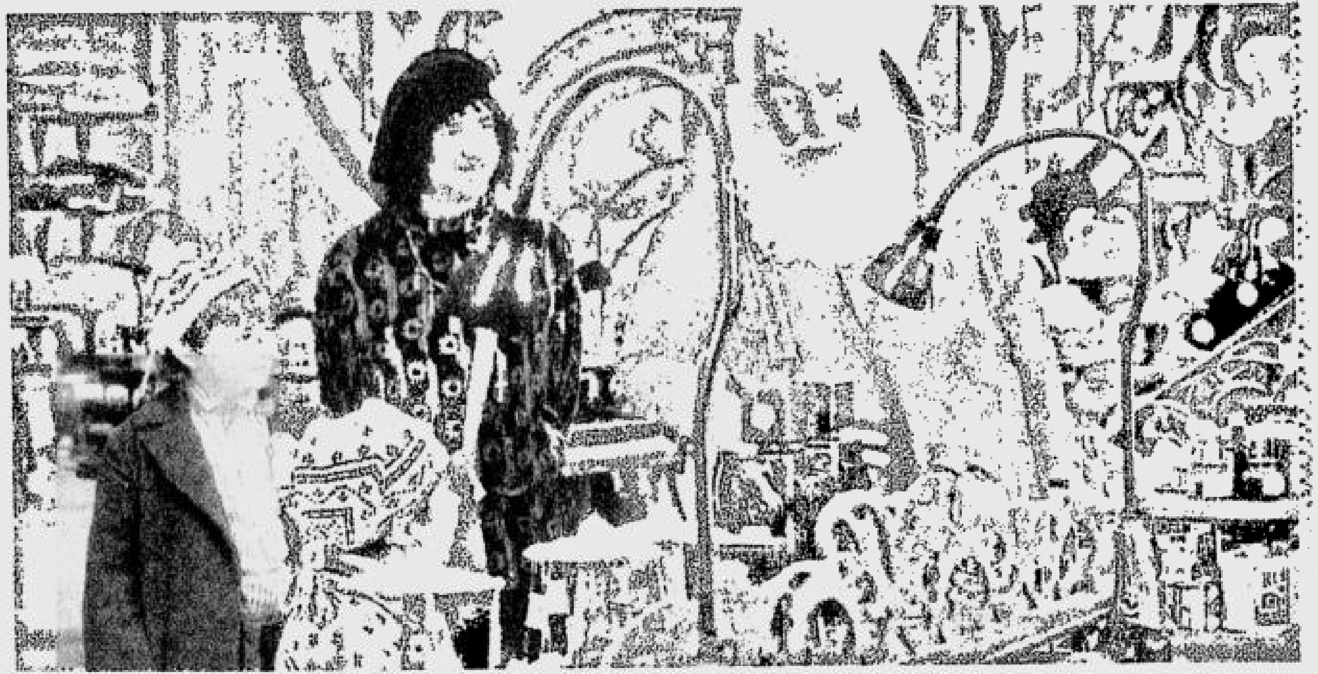
Is he very patient with his daughter?

"Yes, I'm very patient with my daughter," Allen says, then admits, "But sometimes, I'm patient to avoid confrontation. Sometimes I'm patient because I realize it needs some time to breathe. And sometimes I'm patient because I have nothing else to say. There are days, though, when I'm ready to holler and slap her, yell at her and react. Instead, I just take one more step back in order to be able to get out of the situation. I don't want a fight."

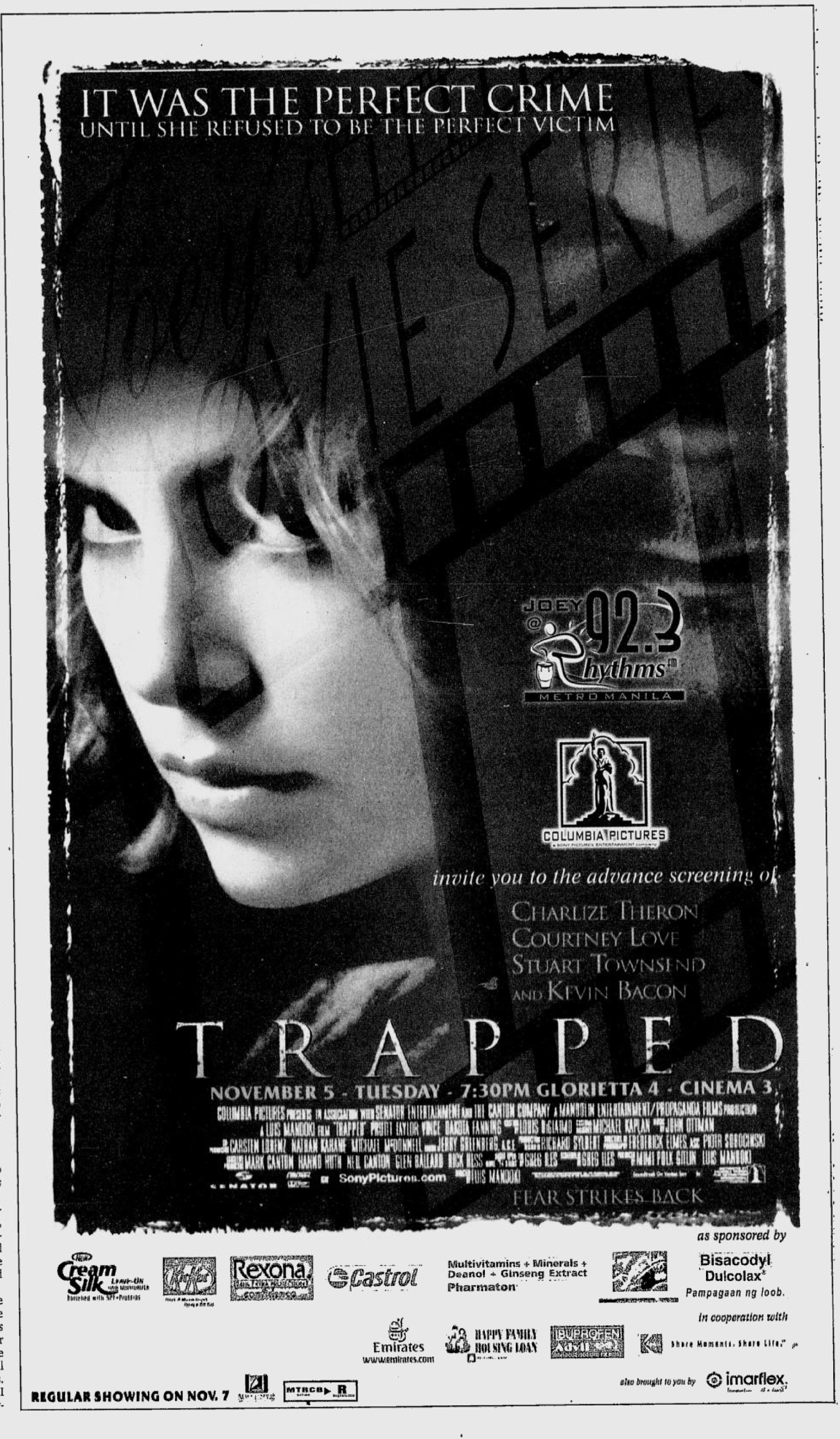
Relationships

Would he rather be single or in a relationship or married?

WHAT/ A26



TRUE FAITH. The child actors actually believe that Tim Allen is Santa Clause.



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3 BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
4 9 MORNINGS
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 SINGSING NI LOLA

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1 STA. CLAUSE 2
2 GHOST SHIP
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA

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1 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
2 SINGSING NI LOLA
3 STA. CLAUSE 2
4 GHOST SHIP

SM CITY DAVAO
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BALLISTIC: ECKS VS. SEVER
2 MR. DEEDS
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 RED DRAGON
HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
6 BLOODWORK

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4
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1 STA. CLAUSE 2
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2 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
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3 SANTA CLAUSE
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5 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
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7 RED DRAGON
8 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN

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2 RED DRAGON
3 SANTA CLAUSE
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION
7 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
8 SINGSING NI LOLA

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2 SANTA CLAUSE
3 SINGSING NI LOLA
4 SWEET HOME ALABAMA
5 ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
6 JEANNIE...BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG?

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2 BLOODWORKS
3 BESTMAN
4 BIRTHDAY GIRL
5 PARAISONG PARISUKAT
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

Iloilo
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1 MR. DEEDS
2 POSSESSION
3 BIRTHDAY GIRL
4 THE TOUCH
5 SINGSING NI LOLA
6 HALLOWEEN RESURRECTION

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Sn Fernando, Pamp.
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Why scary . . .

From page A25

artists' works will also be auctioned off. Call 527-3741.

Movies on TV

ON the HBO channel: Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 8 p.m., "Wit." 10 p.m., "Six Feet Under: The Room." 1:05 a.m., "King Solomon's Mines."

Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 2:15 p.m., "Election." 5:45 p.m., "Leap of Faith." 9 p.m., "Joan of Arc."

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 6 a.m., "Heaven and Earth." 9 p.m., "Finding Forrester."

Friday, Nov. 8 at 5 p.m., "Pay it Forward." 9 p.m., "Band of Brothers: Currahee/ Day of Days." 12:50 a.m., "The Original Kings of Comedy."

On the Cinemax channel: Monday, Nov. 4 at 7:30 a.m., "Bowfinger." 2:30 p.m., "The Out-of-Towners." 10:30 p.m., "Millenium Man."

Tuesday, Nov. 5 at 8:15 a.m., "School Ties." 11:45 a.m., "The Screaming Room: The 10 Scariest Films Ever Made, Part 2." 9 p.m., "Gossip."

Wednesday, Nov. 6 at 4:45 p.m., MacArthur." 10:30 p.m., "Mercy."

Thursday, Nov. 7 at 6:30 a.m., "I'll Do Anything." 11:45 a.m., "Biloxi Blues."

THEATER
MOVIE GUIDE

MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	MORE ANTS IN THE PANTS / LAMAN
ODEON	GHOST SHIP
ODEON-2	BABAHA NG DUGO / KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
ROBEN	BOMBA QUEEN
TANDEM-1	SUGAT
TANDEM-2	KATAWAN MO LANGIT KO
TIMES	MIB / INSOMNIA
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	ORIGINAL SIN
ACT-4	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
CORONET-2	HANGGANG KAILAN KA PAPATAY
QUEZON-1	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR	BOMBA QUEEN
REMAR-2	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
B	HUWAG TAKASAN ANG BATAS
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-2	GHOST SHIP
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	ALYAS BOMBA QUEEN
CINEMA-2	BEDTIME STORIES
CINEMA-3	HUWAG MONG TAKASAN
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	MUNTING TINIG
CINEMA-6	BALLISTIC
CINEMA-7	BAKIT NGAYON KA LANG
CINEMA-8	RED DRAGON
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	GHOST SHIP
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	SWEET HOME ALABAMA
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	HALLOWEEN RESSURECTION
CINEMA-12	SANTA CLAUSE 2
CINEMA-14	SINGSING NI LOLA
CINEMA-15	9 MORNINGS
LORES	
CINEMA-2	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-3	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
NE CINEMAGIC - CABANATUAN	
CINEMA 1	MR DEEDS
CINEMA 2	9 MORNINGS
CINEMA 3	BESTMAN
CINEMA 4	K-19
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARANAQUE)	SENSUAL ISLAND
CINEMA-1	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
CINEMA-2	MEN IN BLACK II
CINEMA-4	SELDA

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5:30, 7:40, 9:50
R 18

CINEMA 2
SWEET HOME ALABAMA
11:50, 2:05, 4:20,
6:35, 8:50
P 13

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IF YOU WANT ACTION?

"The Transporter" has action. Buckets of action. This frantic new cross-cultural flick serves up a new formula for action movies: start with lots of action, then add more and better action, and then finish with nothing but action.

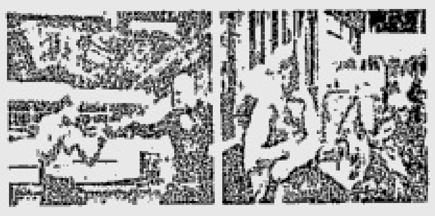
The movie is about Frank Martin (Statham), he has the nerves of harden steel and ruthless driving driving skills that make him a sought-after free agent in transporting illegal commerce. *Here are his rules:* (1) Never change the deal; (2) No names; and (3) Never look in the package. These self-imposed rules have served him well.

Frank's newest transport is no different from the ones he's done in the past. But when Frank stops along route, he notices his "package" is moving. Violating Rule Three, Frank looks inside the bag, finding its contents to be a woman.

Frank's devotion to his other rules - which make up his basic codeof survival - also quickly falls, and led him to a road leading to shocking secrets, deadly complications, and the last thing Frank ever expected to come to believe: that rules are made to be broken.

...he (Statham) could easily destroy the likes of Jean-Claude Van Damme and Steven Seagal or tough guys like Tom Cruise and Vin Diesel
-Danny Minton, KBTV, NBC

OPENS TOMORROW!



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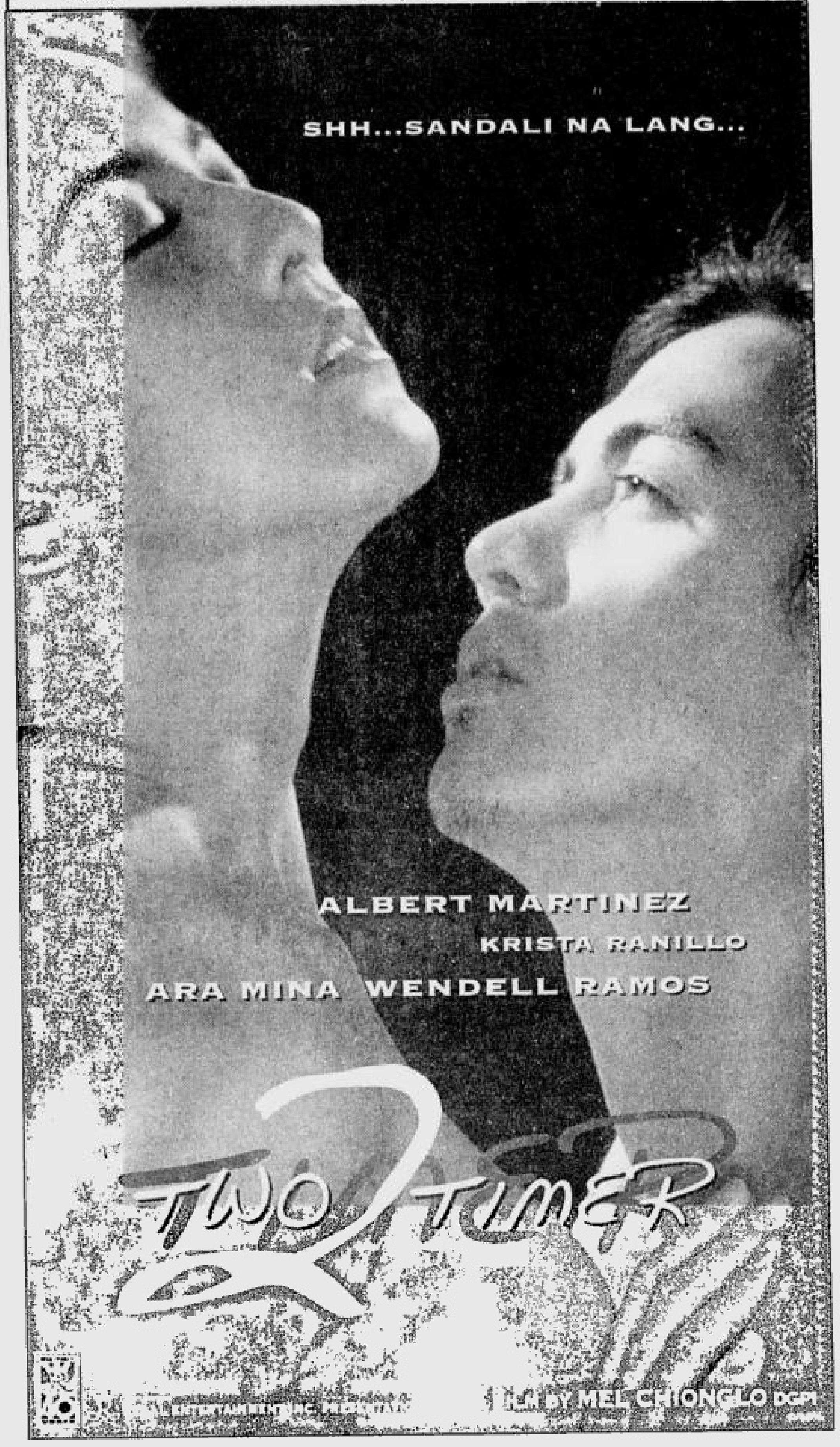

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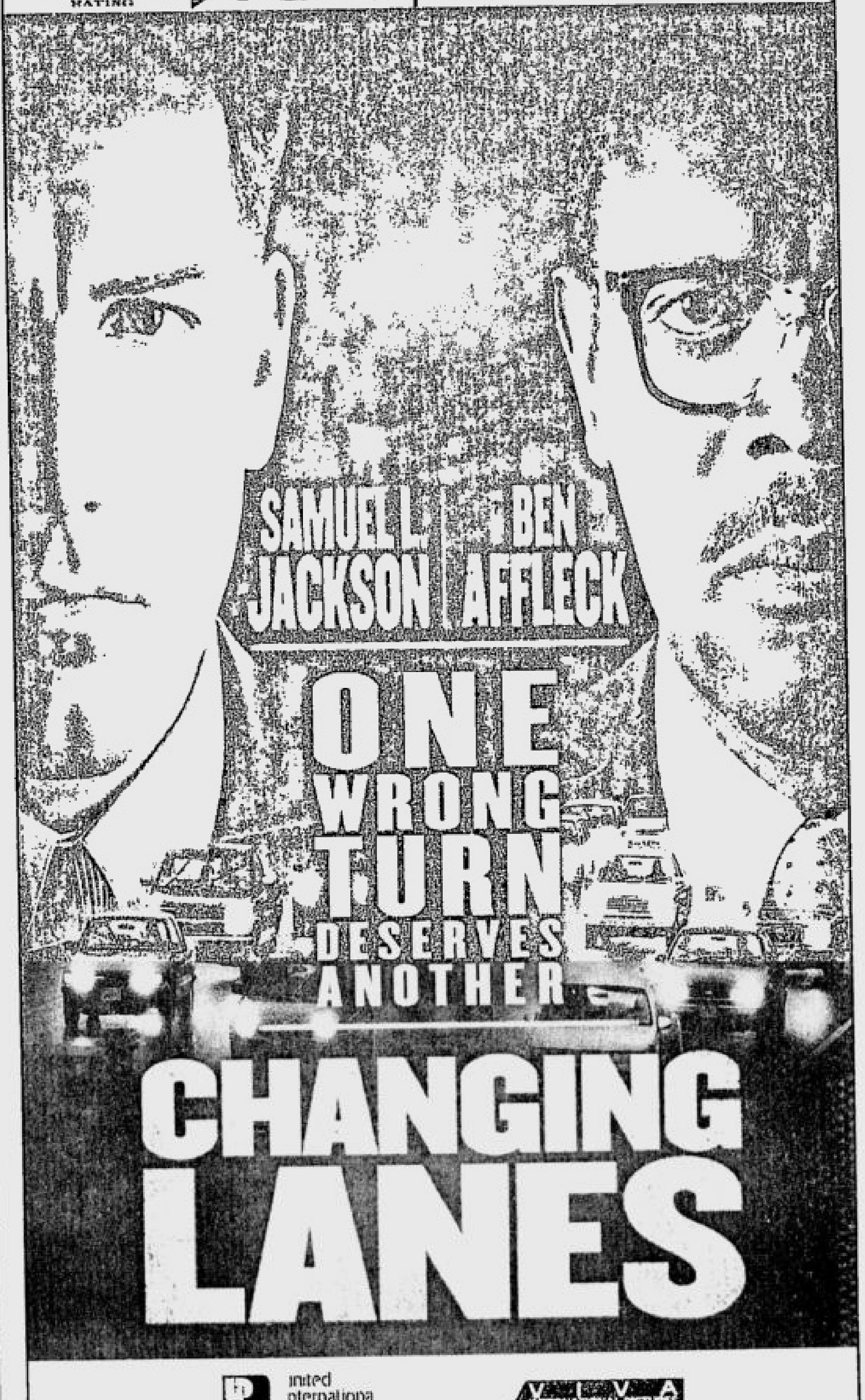

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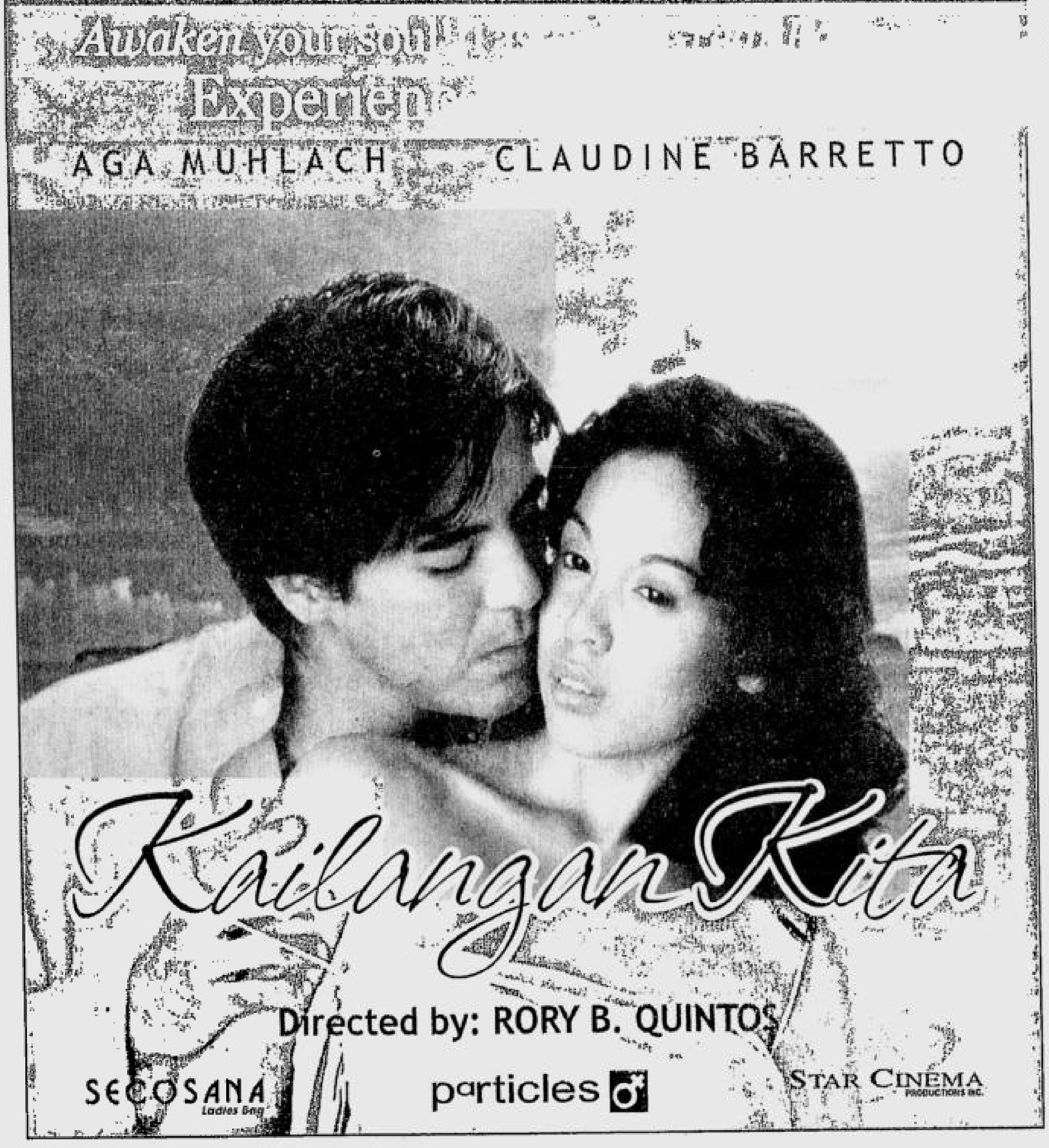
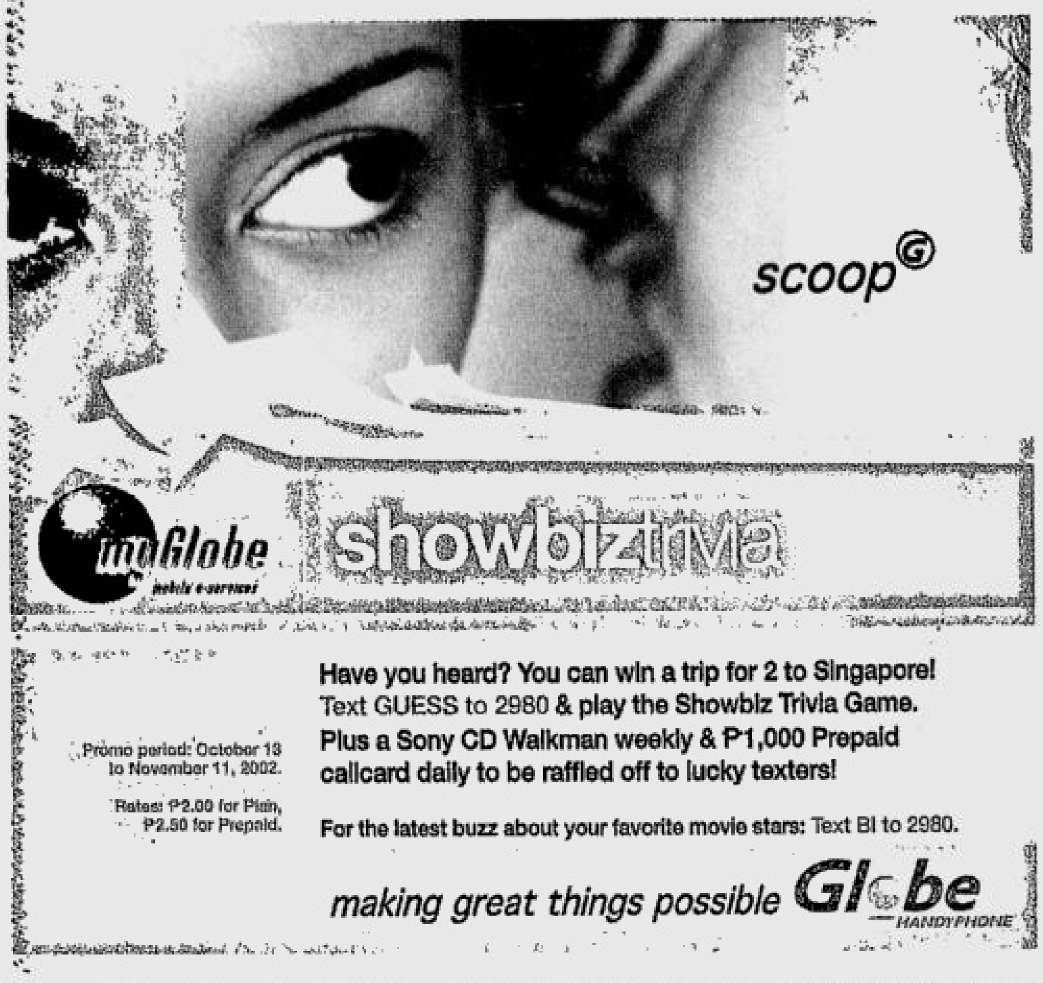
OPENS TOMORROW!

OPENS TOMORROW





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CALENDAR GIRLS. Aubrey Miles, Maui Taylor and Diana Zubiri.

Check out the calendar, not the quick-sex rumor

By Marinel R. Cruz

SCREEN sirens Aubrey Miles and Diana Zubiri have grown sooo tired of answering questions about Maui Taylor's rumored rendezvous with a photographer that they just might lose their cool if you dare bring it up again.

The quickie is said to have taken place during the three actresses' photo shoot for the FHM 2003 calendar in Bohol last September. Or so those spreading the rumor would like us to believe.

During the Oct. 28 launch of the FHM calendar in Quezon City, poor Aubrey and Diana spent most of their time answering questions about the rumor, until Aubrey begged reporters, "Please *naman, magtanong naman kayo* about the calendar."

The rumor said Maui and the FHM photographer had disappeared while Aubrey, Diana, and the rest of the magazine staff members were partying to celebrate the end of the five-day shoot. Sounds like a publicity stunt.

"We were with Maui the whole time," Diana said. "We never saw (Maui) leave with (the photographer)."

"I was there, too," said Aubrey. "I swear, nothing like that happened."

Maui also denied it, saying she and the photographer had an argument about a certain shot earlier that day. "So how could something happen when we even had a fight?"

She added, "Let's please not involve him (photographer) anymore. Actually, he was not himself then because he was worried about his wife who was at the hospital giving birth. *Kawawa naman yung* wife *n'ya.*"

So, enough said about that supposed one-night-stand.

FHM editor Eric Ramos said the magazine decided to feature not one but three models in the new calendar "because readers want to see more, they are not satisfied with just one model."

Many men who have seen the new calendar, however, say the FHM 2002 calendar with Assunta de Rossi was far better.

The 2003 calendar has 18 images of Aubrey, Diana and Maui. The trio is busy promoting the calendar on radio and in malls.

The calendar is expected to hit the stores soon, at P295 a shot.

Rico Yan shows himself to friend

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Ann Carvajal

ON ALL Souls' Day, I texted all my kindred spirits this message I made myself: "As we remember our dear departed ones today, let us also bear in mind that life is too short to be boring. Live it well! Love it good! Thanks. for making my life one helluva party!"

I was in an introspective mood all day. After the latest show biz controversy I have been thrust into, which I just dismissed as a Halloween trick, I relished my solitude last Nov. 1. I knew in my heart that my beloved **Nich** and **Lala** (my grandparents) and my **Uncle Vic** (who was my sparring partner) and other dear relatives who went ahead gave me a semblance of peace which is non-existent in show biz.

Truly there is love even after death. Without love, what exoneration would we have from life? I was seriously contemplating writing the book my friends in and out of the biz have been urging me to write. Just to bounce off ideas, I decided to call a common friend of the late **Rico Yan** and mine.

I was flabbergasted to hear her sobbing like a baby on the phone. It turned out that Rico has been making his presence felt more and more.

It all began in September. Pictures of her and Rico would suddenly pop out of her stuff and she would hear songs Rico used to sing to her. He called her "Baby Sister" and from all indications he is truly watching over her like a big brother until now.

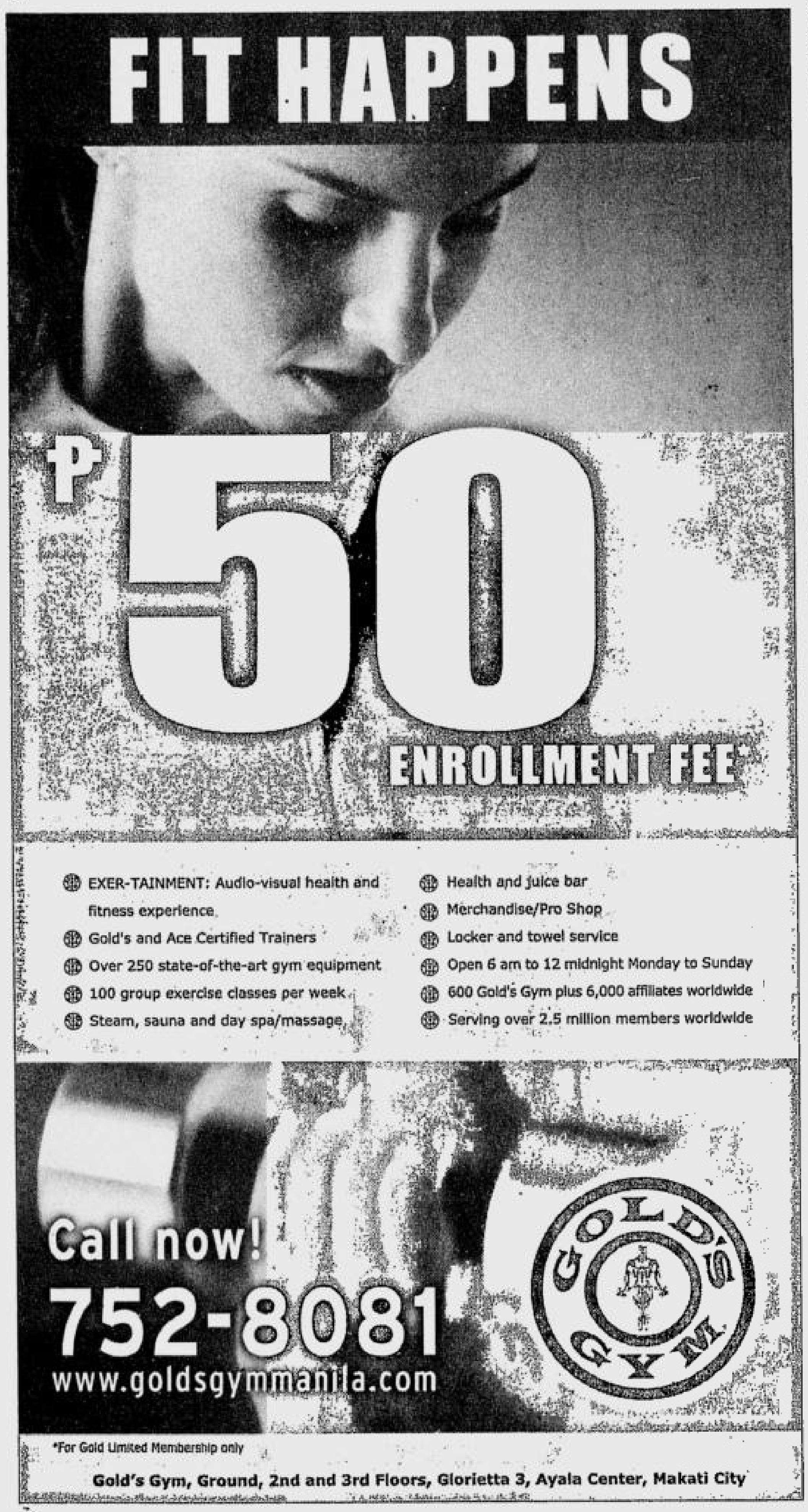
In between sobs she poured her heart out to me. "I usually talk to Rico before I sleep, asking for guidance and also for signs regarding something he had wanted to happen long before. I had a vivid dream of him last Nov. 1 and when I woke up it was as if he was still holding my hand. So I prayed again and when I turned on the TV, it was a replay of 'Maalala Mo Kaya' with Rico as a guest. He was wearing the green Lacoste t-shirt I gave him, which was what he was also wearing in my dream."

I could totally relate to what she was saying because Rico was there, as in really there, for his friends (check out my story about our friendship which the Yan family included in Rico Yan's commemorative magazine, available in bookstores for P200).

My friend rambled on. "It's been almost two months now that I've been getting visions and vivid dreams about Rico. That's why I'm thinking of becoming more involved in his foundation and other projects like the coming RICOnnection. I want to help keep his spirit alive. I'm not scared at all. I even welcome every moment when I feel he's just near me. It makes me feel protected. If only all his friends and fans can feel what I feel."

Looks like the unresolved business that Rico has forever been wanting to materialize in our common friend's life is destined to happen sooner or

RICO/ A26



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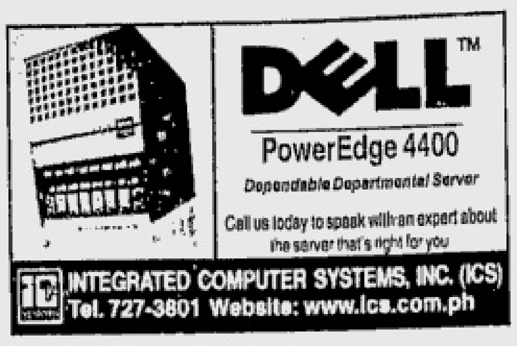
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RP exports up 16.8% in September

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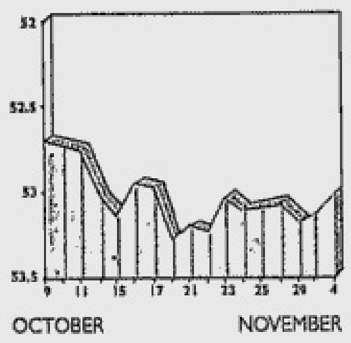

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As of 5 p.m., Nov. 1, 2002

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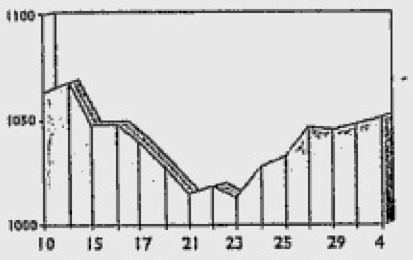
Stocks end up

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B2)

THE MAIN stock index ended slightly higher yesterday, buoyed by investors' positioning in selected large caps ahead of results, traders said.

However, trading was lackluster with turnover light following a four-day holiday break in the country, traders said.

The market was closed on Thursday and Friday for the All Saints'/All Souls' Catholic holidays.

The main index closed up 2.45 points, or 0.23 percent, at 1,050.98 points. Turnover fell to P219.5 million from P335.6 million last Wednesday.

"Some investors are positioning ahead of third-quarter earnings results. They are anticipating good numbers but I don't expect the gains to be sustainable," said Henry Ong, KGI Securities vice president for sales.

Mall developer SM Prime Holdings and food and beverage heavyweight San Miguel Corp. both benefited from investors speculating on positive earnings, Ong said.

Bank of the Philippine Islands, which announced last Wednesday that its parent third-quarter net income grew 18 percent year-on-year, rose P1 to P42, as investors responded positively to the results.

On the downside, PLDT fell P3 to P227 and rival Globe Telecom shed P5 to P405, despite posting third-quarter net income that put the firm in line to meet or beat most analysts' expectations for full-year earnings.

Reuters

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE COUNTRY'S merchandise exports in September surged by 16.8 percent, again buoyed by a 17-percent jump in electronic shipments.

The growth exceeded analysts' expectations, but they remained skeptical and insisted that the slowdown in export growth was bound to happen in the coming months.

The National Statistics Office said yesterday that the country's September exports amounted to $3.19 billion, compared with $2.73 billion in the same month last year. Electronics accounted for 53 percent of the month's exports.

It was the sixth consecutive month to show an increase from a year earlier, after 15 months of declines, but analysts attributed the strong rise partly to the weakness of September 2001 exports, which was 22 percent lower than a year before.

Exports in the first nine months of the year totaled $26.039 billion, or 8.8 percent stronger than a year earlier, the NSO said.

"It's surprisingly strong," said Craig Chan, senior strategist at 4CAST Ltd. "The market was looking for about 10.8 percent and we were expecting 11 percent year-on-year. It's better than August so it's quite a good number."

"It seems to have been driven by electronics," Chan said.

"Other parts of the region have also been pretty strong recently. If we look at Korea in October and September and Taiwan in September they were also strong."

"The slowdown has not happened yet but it will happen. For now, we expect continued strength going into the year-end but then we will start seeing the trend easing off in the the first quarter."

But others were more optimistic.

"It seems Philippine exports are to remain on the upward trajectory and I guess the trend is a little more positive than elsewhere in the region," David Cohen, an economist for the Standard & Poors MMS, told AFP financial news subsidiary AFX-Asia.

"I think what this underscores is that ... it's still too early to give up on the continued pick-up in exports in the region this year," he said.

Cohen noted that Philippine exports have sustained a double-digit rise after last year's declines amid the global economic downturn and the fallout from the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks in the United States.

Exports to the United States, the Philippines' biggest trading partner, were up 5.5 percent in September while exports to Japan, another big market, rose 11.16 percent from a year earlier.

The two countries made up for about 40 percent of the country's aggregate export receipts in September.

The jump in exports, however, came from trade with China and other Southeast Asian countries. September exports to China grew 134.8 percent from a year earlier

RP/B2

'Basin sellers' in a race to change perceptions

By Ronnel W. Domingo

(First of two parts)

B-One

MEET Lasse Aznar Holopainen. He and his friends are going places to sell basins.

With such a name and job, you are probably imagining him making his rounds in the neighborhood on a motorbike. Stereotypes aside, Holopainen is neither from South Asia nor are his wares from anywhere near the laundry area.

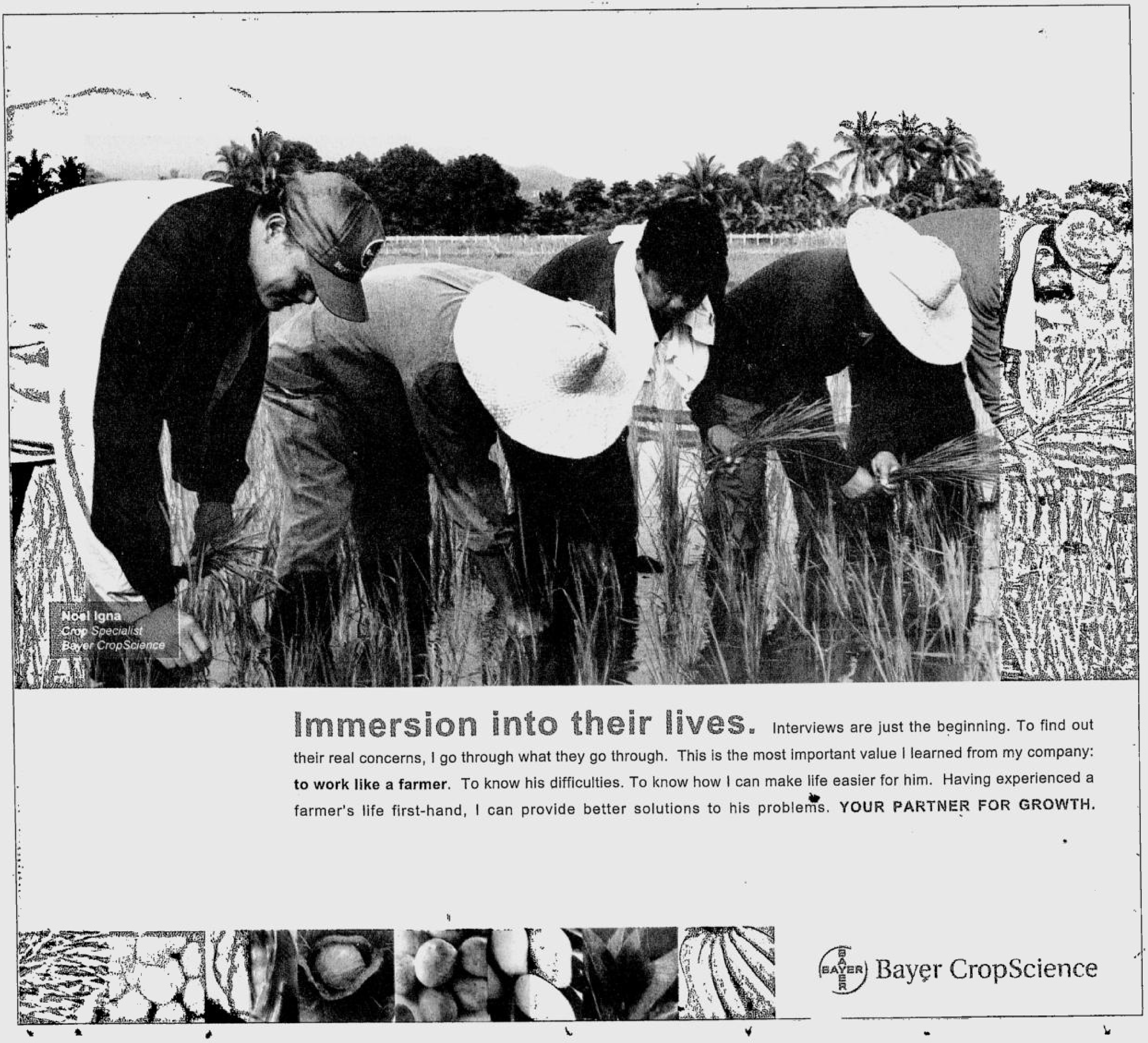
He is half-Finnish and half-Filipino: "*Taga-Cebu ang nanay ko. Doon ako lumaki* (My mother is from Cebu. That's where I grew up)." Holopainen is an assistant secretary of the Department of Energy, and his task is to sell the country's sedimentary basins.

Sedi—what? He turns to geologist Simplicio "Sim" Caluyong for a better description.

"Sedimentary basins are like depressions in the earth's skin," Caluyong says. "Over millions of years, they fill up with materials that usually contain organic stuff or things that have carbon, like plants and animals, things that had been alive."

Over millions of years and due to high pressure and tempera-

BASIN/B4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Metrobank's $100-M notes get favorable Moody's rating

By Elena R. Torrijos

MOODY'S Investors Service has assigned a prospective rating of Ba1 to Metropolitan Bank and Trust Co.'s planned $100 million in subordinated notes due 2012.

The notes, which will qualify as tier-2 capital, were rated above the rating of the bank's deposits, which was constrained by the country's foreign currency deposit ceiling.

In a statement, Moody's said it believed that "the risk associated with the issue's subordination is mitigated by the low likelihood that the bank will face a regulatory intervention that could potentially cause credit losses to the noteholders, given the bank's systemic importance."

The rating also reflected Metrobank's status as the Philippines' largest bank, its well-established middle-market franchise and anticipated strong regulatory support in case of need.

On the other hand, incorporated in the rating is the risk that the deteriorating environment in the country could pressure the bank's financial health, which has already been weakened by unfavorable events following Asia's financial crisis starting in 1997, as well as the issue's structural subordination to senior bank obligations.

The proposed $100-million, 10-year issue, which could be increased to $150 million, has a fixed interest rate reset feature and is callable in 2007.

The existing ratings of Metrobank are Ba2 or "Not Prime" for its long-term/short-term deposit, and a financial strength rating of D.

Metrobank is largely owned and controlled by taipan George Ty.

Citing a confidentiality agreement, Metrobank officials, however, have refused to comment on why the bank planned to raise tier-2 capital again.

Last year, Metrobank had raised $100 million in tier-2 capital through a similar subordinated debt issue.

Some analysts have speculated that the bank needed to increase its capital funds because it would have to take some loss on the sale of some P16 billion worth of bad loans to an asset management group led by Dutch cooperative bank Rabo Bank.

JANUARY-JUNE

Ayala Land disburses ₱1.2B in capex

AYALA Land Inc., the property arm of the Ayala family, said that it has disbursed P1.2 billion for capital expenditures in the first half of this year.

This represented 29 percent of the P4.2-billion budget the property developer allocated for capital expenditures this year.

In documents filed with the Securities and Exchange Commission, ALI said that it was setting aside 31 percent of the P4.2 billion in budgeted capital expenditures this year for equity investments in key subsidiaries and affiliates.

A little less than that or 28 percent would go to the development of residential buildings and units and 22 percent for commercial center development.

Land and community development would receive 15 percent of the budget while projects in the Visayas and Mindanao would get 4 percent.

For the next six months, ALI said it has lined up a number of undertakings.

Greenbelt 4, it said, was scheduled to start operating by next year. Greenbelt 2 and 3 have already opened.

Meanwhile, construction of a retail development in Fort Bonifacio called Market! Market! has already begun and would be well under way in the coming months, ALI said.

Also, detailed planning of North Triangle Commercial Center would be completed in the coming months and construction is scheduled to start early next year.

Last week, ALI filed a draft prospectus for the proposed issuance of P1 billion in short-term commercial papers.

Estimated net proceeds of P995 million would be used for general corporate purposes such as meeting its debt service and working capital requirements, ALI said.

Ratings downgrade prompts gov't to junk foreign borrowing plans

By Clarissa S. Batino

NATIONAL Treasurer Sergio Edeza yesterday said the government had abandoned plans to tap the foreign market for funds this year following the negative credit rating outlook handed by one of the top global rating firms last week.

"The market should not expect any more foreign issuances this year. Even the Japanese bond issue that we are planning would likely push through early next year," he said.

Edeza admitted that the outlook downgrade from Standard & Poor's had affected market appetite for Philippine bonds and could make the cost of borrowing more expensive for the government.

As a result, he said the government might have to review its borrowing mix for 2003 and possibly shift the burden of some of its projected $2.3 billion in foreign funding requirement to the domestic market.

This year, the government borrowed $750 million from the 15-year global bond market, $1.3 billion from the seven-year global bond market, and $300 million from the five-year eurobond market.

Originally slated to be issued this year were $300 million from the long-term Japanese bond market and as much as $1 billion from the 10-year global bond market.

The government also considered a reopening of the $300-million, five-year eurobond facility where it planned to raise an additional $200 million.

The proceeds of the floats would have been used to finance next year's projected budget deficit of P142.1 billion.

But even before the negative rating outlook from S&P, the government had postponed for next year the planned global bond issue because of uncertain market conditions after the terrorist bombing in Bali, Indonesia, last month.

"We could afford to postpone the borrowings for next year because we do not need the money. We are fully financed for this year," the treasurer stressed.

Edeza said the government would have to wait for the dust to settle even before planning to go back to the foreign markets for financing.

"Now is not the good time to go to the market because it is very volatile," Edeza added.

The S&P negative rating outlook was given a week after the government announced that its nine-month deficit swelled to P166.4 billion, a level equivalent to 4.1 percent of gross domestic product this year.

The financial markets are expecting this year's fiscal gap to hit at least P200 billion.

The Philippines has $1.2 billion worth of securities registered with the US Securities and Exchange Commission that it could tap readily to float global bonds.

RP exports up 16.8% …

From page B1

and to Hong Kong 86.4 percent. Exports to Malaysia were up 45.4 percent and to Singapore 16.7 percent.

Officials have said inter-Asian trade flows have supported the country's export growth amid fragile economic recovery in the United States, but analysts were quick to point out that most of the goods going to Asia eventually end up in the US market.

Another concern was the impact of the West Coast dockers' strike on Asia's trade with the United States, analysts said.

"We still have to see the effect of the West Coast dockers strike … It could be a drag in October though it should not change the trend for 8- to 10-percent (exports) growth this year," the foreign commercial bank senior economist said. *With Inquirer wire reports*

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Monday, November 4, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	4.8	4.8	4.8	4.8	6,000
Banco de Oro Univ. Bank	18	18.75	18	18.75	25,500
Bank of the Phil. Islands	41	42.5	41	42	582,600
China Banking Corp.	620	620	620	620	3,120
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	27	27	26.5	26.5	81,900
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	31	31.5	31	31	75,600
Security Bank Corp.	11	11.25	11	11.25	11,500
Union Bank of the Phil.	18.25	18.25	18.25	18.25	16,000
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Manulife Financial Corp.	1115	1115	1115	1115	1,300
Sun Life Financial Serv.	905	915	905	915	570
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	17	17	17	17	24,000
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.42	0.42	0.42	0.42	610,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	410	410	402.5	405	19,690
Ipeople Inc.	0.7	0.7	0.7	0.7	10,000
ISM Communications Corp.	0.016	0.018	0.016	0.018	200,000
Piltel	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	100,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	230	230	225	227	77,520
Ivantage Corp.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	20,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.01	0.01	0.01	0.01	13,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	15	15	14.75	14.75	25,000
Manila Electric Co. B	20	20.5	20	20	500,800
Petron Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.44	1.46	748,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.18	2.18	2.18	2.18	18,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.39	0.39	40,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	3.3	3.3	3.3	3.3	2,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	149,500
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	32	32	32	32	122,500
RFM Corp.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	270,000
San Miguel Corp. A	57.5	57.5	57	57.5	90,400
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	62	61.5	62	184,200
Vitarich Corp.	0.32	0.32	0.32	0.32	100,000
HOLDING FIRMS					
Abacus Con Res & Hdg A	0.34	0.34	0.34	0.34	200,000
Ayala Corp.	4.75	4.8	4.75	4.75	1,568,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.26	2.3	2.26	2.3	2,077,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	6,000,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.185	0.195	0.18	0.195	3,710,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	100,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	3,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.2	1.2	1.2	1.2	80,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	13.5	13.5	13.5	13.5	322,200
Global Equities Inc.	0.06	0.06	0.06	0.06	1,400,000
Ionics Inc.	2.12	2.12	2.12	2.12	40,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	400,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.62	0.62	0.62	0.62	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.2	0.22	0.19	0.22	2,010,000
Music Corp.	0.085	0.11	0.085	0.11	60,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.05	0.05	0.05	0.05	400,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.75	0.75	0.75	0.75	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	170,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.046	0.046	0.04	0.04	5,100,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. A	1.56	1.64	1.56	1.64	515,000
Interphil Labs Inc. B	1.56	1.66	1.56	1.66	207,000
Matsushita Elec Phil Corp.	6	6	6	6	51,000
Pryce Corp.	0.085	0.085	0.085	0.085	5,900,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	10.25	10.5	10.25	10.25	10,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.38	0.39	0.38	0.39	400,000
Leisure & Resorts Corp.	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	20,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	17	17.5	17	17.25	1,851,600
PLDT (10% Pref) Series R	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series W	10	10	10	10	1,000
PLDT 10% Pref Series Aa	10	10	10	10	2,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	5	5.1	5	5.1	8,373,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.86	0.86	10,330,000
Highlands Prime Inc.	2	2	2	2	10,000
Keppel Phils. Prop. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	10,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	5.5	5.6	5.5	5.6	3,655,000
MINING					
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.17	0.17	0.17	0.17	200,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.26	0.26	0.25	0.25	70,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	300,000
OIL					
Interport Res. B	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	10,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.024	0.024	0.024	0.024	2,000,000

	SHARES	VALUE(P)
Bank & Fin Svc	806,090	33,632,675.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	49,111,410	114,344,390.00
PRO	22,378,000	71,232,600.00
Mining	570,000	136,000.00
OIL	12,000,000	62,000.00
GRAND TOTALS:	84,865,500	219,407,665.00

DISCLOSURES

UNIVERSAL Rightfield Property Holdings will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on Dec. 11, 2:30 p.m. at the Function Room, Podium Deck of Pioneer Highlands Condominium, Mandaluyong City. Stockholders of record as of Nov. 21 shall be entitled to notice of and to vote at the meeting.

* * *

MUSIC Corp. has announced the resignation of Catherine Jennifer Gonzales as corporate secretary of the company.

* * *

DIGITAL Telecommunications Philippines Inc. has announced the appointment of Equitable PCI Bank as its new stock transfer and dividend paying agent effective Dec. 1, 2002.

* * *

ELECTED directors of Asian Terminals Inc. were John Buckley and Colin Childs. Buckley was also appointed CEO and EVP. Richard Barclay was elected chair, replacing Roger Davies who resigned last August. Rodolfo Corvite Jr. was appointed compliance officer under the company's manual on corporate governance.

* * *

MRC Allied Industries Inc. has adjourned its annual stockholders' meeting due to lack of quorum.

* * *

BANK of the Philippine Islands has announced the resignation of Alberto Villarosa as EVP and treasurer of the bank. Appointed treasurer of the bank was Antonio Paner.

* * *

PHILIPPINE Realty & Holdings Corp. has denied having any information that could explain why its stock price dropped from P0.033 to P0.02 per share.

* * *

ZEUS Holdings Inc. has designated Equitable PCI Bank-Trust Services Group as its stock transfer and dividend paying agent. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

CURRENCIES

Nov. 4, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.002908	1.000000	53.222000
Japan	Yen	0.008211	0.008187	0.435700
United Kingdom	Pound	1.569050	1.564500	83.265800
Hongkong	Dollar	0.128590	0.128217	6.824000
Switzerland	Franc	0.684205	0.682221	36.309200
Canada	Dollar	0.643757	0.641890	34.162700
Singapore	Dollar	0.569026	0.567376	30.196900
Australia	Dollar	0.560723	0.559097	29.756300
Bahrain	Dinar*	2.660446	2.652731	141.183600
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.267428	0.266652	14.191800
Brunei	Dollar	0.567417	0.565771	30.111500
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000108	0.000108	0.005700
Thailand	Baht	0.023178	0.023111	1.230000
UAE	Dirham	0.273071	0.272279	14.491200
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.997100	53.067700
ArgentinaPeso	0.285729	0.284900	15.162900	
Brazil	REAL	0.279673	0.278862	14.841600
Denmark	Kroner	0.134546	0.134156	7.140100
India	Rupee	0.020781	0.020721	1.102800
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.263958	0.263193	14.007700
Mexico	New Peso	0.098489	0.098203	5.226600
New Zealand	Dollar	0.493728	0.492296	26.201000
Norway	Kroner	0.135853	0.135459	7.209400
Pakistan	Rupee	0.017071	0.017021	0.905900
South Africa	Rand	0.100643	0.100351	5.340900
Korea	Won	0.000819	0.000817	0.043500
Sweden	Kroner	0.110140	0.109821	5.844900
Syria	Pound	0.022690	0.022624	1.204100
Taiwan	Nt Dollar	0.028944	0.028860	1.536000
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.000704	0.000702	0.037400

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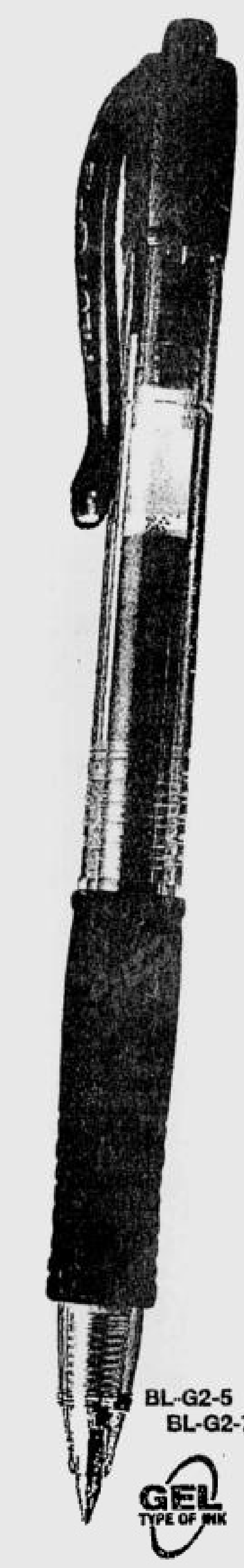

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Camp John Hay Golf [illegible]
Canyon Woods [illegible]
Capitol Hills [illegible]
Eagle Ridge "A/B/C" [illegible]
Forest Hills "A/B/C" [illegible]
Mt. Malarayat "A/C" [illegible]
Punta Fuego [illegible]
Quezon City Sports [illegible]
Riviera "A" [illegible]
Royale Tagaytay [illegible]
Sta Elena "A/B" [illegible]
Sherwood [illegible]
Subic Yacht (Indiv) [illegible]
Tagaytay Highlands Club/Golf [illegible]
Tagaytay Midland Golf [illegible]
Valley Golf [illegible]
Wack Wack [illegible]
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Canlubang Golf [illegible]
Celebrity [illegible]
Club Filipino Please call
Fontana "A" [illegible]
Forest Hills "C" [illegible]
Manila Golf (Indiv.) /Corp [illegible]
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Manila Southwoods "A/B" [illegible]
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BUY/SELL COUNTRY CLUB SHARES AS OF NOVEMBER 04, 2002

	ASKED PRICE	BID PRICE
ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000.00	—
BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	720,000.00	—
CALATAGAN GOLF CLUB	80,000.00	70,000.00
CAPITOL HILLS GOLF CLUB	100,000.00	please call
CAMP JOHN HAY	250,000.00	—
COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY *	375,000.00	—
CLUB FILIPINO	—	150,000.00
EAGLE RIDGE "A"	—	360,000.00
EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB	150,000.00	please call
FONTANA "C"	85,000.00	—
FONTANA "D"	65,000.00	—
FOREST HILLS GOLF CLUB "C"	220,000.00	—
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "A"	580,000.00	—
MANILA SOUTHWOODS "B"	660,000.00	please call
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Ind.)	—	10,000,000.00
MANILA GOLF CLUB (Corp.)	please call	10,000,000.00
MIMOSA (Ind.)	125,000.00	100,000.00
MT. MALARAYAT "C"	please call	—
ORCHARD GOLF CLUB "C"	please call	please call
PUEBLO DE ORO	400,000.00	—
PUERTO AZUL BEACH CLUB "A"	100,000.00	—
PHIL. COLUMBIAN ASSOCIATION	70,000.00	60,000.00
ROCKWELL CLUB	380,000.00	—
ROYALE TAGAYTAY	please call	—
SHERWOOD HILLS "B"	150,000.00	please call
SPA & LODGE *	600,000.00	please call
STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "B"	1,650,000.00	please call
SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB	160,000.00	please call
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS *		please call
VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	please call	140,000.00
VALLEY GOLF CLUB	330,000.00	300,000.00
WACK WACK GOLF CLUB	6,600,000.00 all in	please call
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CLUBS	SELLING AT
ALABANG "A"	1,500,000
ALABANG "B"	1,600,000
BAGUIO CC	680,000
CALATAGAN "A"	90,000
CAMP JOHN HAY	270,000
CAPITOL HILLS	115,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	380,000
MANILA GOLF (INDIV)	12,000,000
MLA STHWOODS "A"	600,000
MLA STHWOODS "B"	650,000
MONTEMAR (CORP)	35,000
ORCHARDGCC "A"	Call now
RIVIERA GCC "A"	Call now
STA. ELENA "A"	1,620,000
TAGAYTAY MIDLANDS	765,000

Playing Rights: Please Call

CLUBS	BUYING AT
ALABANG "A"	1,400,000
BAGUIO CC	600,000
CANYON WOODS	180,000
CELEBRITY SPORTS	180,000
CC AT TAGAYTAY	350,000
FAIRWAYS & BLUWATER	250,000
FOREST HILLS "A"	200,000
MANILAPOLO	2,500,000
MLA STHWOODS "A"	Call now
MLA STHWOODS "B"	500,000
MT. MALARAYAT (CORP)	450,000
TAGAYTAY HLANDS GOLF	800,000
VALLE VERDE	140,000
VALLEY GOLF	290,000

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WHERE : 24/F, EXPORT BANK PLAZA (formerly Urban Bank)
Senator Gil J. Puyat Ave. cor. Pasong Tamo, Makati City
PRICE : MAP Member: --- Free | Guest : ---------- Php 600.00
CALL FRANCO DEL ROSARIO FOR ADDITIONAL INFO AT # (0917) 537-4425

GOLFERS CLUB SHARES, INC.
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AS OF NOV. 4, 2002

	SELLING	BUYING
1. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "A"	1,500,000	1,400,000
2. ALABANG COUNTRY CLUB "B"	1,700,000	1,500,000
3. BAGUIO COUNTRY CLUB	700,000	650,000
4. CALATAGAN GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	80,000	
5. CAMP JOHN HAY	260,000	240,000
6. CANLUBANG GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	550,000	
7. CAPITOL HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	100,000	90,000
8. CELEBRITY CLUB	180,000	170,000
9. COUNTRY CLUB AT TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS	380,000	350,000
10. CLUB FILIPINO	190,000	
11. EASTRIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	130,000	100,000
12. EAGLERIDGE GOLF CLUB "A"	330,000	300,000
13. EVERCREST GOLF CLUB "A"	100,000	
14. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	220,000	200,000
15. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	280,000	
16. FOREST HILLS GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	500,000	
17. LUISITA GOLF CLUB	350,000	300,000
18. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "A"	250,000	230,000
19. MAKATI SPORTS CLUB "B"	270,000	250,000
20. MANILA GOLF CLUB (IND.)		10,500,000
21. MANILA GOLF CLUB (CORP.)	13,000,000	
22. MANILA POLO CLUB	2,600,000	2,600,000
23. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "A"	600,000	550,000
24. MANILA SOUTHWOODS GOLF CLUB "B"	700,000	
25. METROPOLITAN CLUB "A"		100,000
26. METROPOLITAN CLUB "B"	150,000	
27. MT. MALARAYAT GOLF CLUB (IND.)	360,000	
28. ORCHARD GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	350,000	
29. QUEZON CITY SPORTS CLUB	220,000	200,000
30. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "A"	200,000	
31. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "B"	210,000	
32. RIVIERA GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB "C"	360,000	300,000
33. STA. ELENA GOLF CLUB "A"	1,650,000	
34. SUBIC BAY YACHT CLUB (IND.)	280,000	
35. TAGAYTAY HIGHLANDS INT'L GOLF CLUB	850,000	
36. TAGAYTAY MIDLAND	800,000	750,000
37. VALLE VERDE COUNTRY CLUB	170,000	150,000
38. VALLEY GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB		310,000
39. WACK WACK GOLF & COUNTRY CLUB	6,900,000	

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Treasury, banks sign deal on retail T-bills

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BUREAU of Treasury yesterday signed a memorandum of agreement with three banks to underwrite the sale of as much as P10 billion worth of small-denominated treasury bills to retail investors.

The proceeds of the new borrowing will be used to finance the government's growing budget deficit, which hit P166.4 billion in September.

A revival of the small investors program launched during the previous administration, National Treasurer Sergio Edeza said the government could raise as much as P10 billion from the new round of issuance of the small-denominated bills starting this year.

"We will sell this in two to three weeks. We want to push savings at the grassroots level. The proceeds would be used to help finance this year's deficit," Edeza said yesterday during the 105th anniversary of the Treasury.

He said the tenor of the small-denominated bills had not been finalized but it would likely match the short-term 91-, 182- and 364-day treasuries auctioned by the government every two weeks.

Government securities are usually sold to banks that, in turn, sell these to big investors who have millions to spare. Small investors could only access these instruments every time the Treasury would open it to retail buyers.

Tapped to sell the securities were Land Bank of the Philippines, Development Bank of the Philippines and First Metro Investment Corp., a subsidiary of Metrobank.

The bills will be sold in denominations of P5,000 and the investors will get a yield half-a-point lower than the lowest rate of the last auction.

Any investor with at least P5,000 and an account with any of the three banks can buy the bills from any of the branches of the underwriters.

The investors can also roll over their placements depending on the tenor. In effect, an investor can renew the placement every 91 days until the time he decides to terminate it.

"This is an electronic and enhanced small investors program. Investors can now increase their placements through the Internet provided they have enrolled their account with any of the three banks," Edeza said.

Unlike the retail treasury bonds that carried a longer tenor and were sold by more banks, Edeza said the securities would not reach the same volume as the P63 billion worth of three- and five-year RTBs sold by the government last June.

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8AM - 12NN Session 1 Financial Management for Entrepreneurs
12.30 - 5PM Session 2 Creative Taxation for Small and Medium Businesses
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8AM - 12NN Session 3 Contract Administration for Small and Medium Business
12.30 - 5PM Session 4 Protecting Inventions and Product Patenting

NOV 15 2002
8AM - 12NN Session 5 Creative Marketing for Interior Design Based Products
12.30 - 5PM Session 6 Product Design Trends for Home and Interior Furnishings
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TECHNICAL TRACK
NOV 14 2002
8AM - 12NN Session 1 Specification for Portland Cement Concrete Pavement
Guidance for Concrete Quality Assurance

Session 2 Recycling of Aggregates and Sand from Waste Concrete/Environmental Management Plans
Pavement Failures, Their Causes and Cures
Asphalt Recycling by Anderson Asphalt
Nov 16 2002
Session 3 & 4 Waste Management System for the Construction Industry
Session 5 Latest Developments in Steel Technology
Session 6 Special Applications for Steel in Vertical and Horizontal

HOMEMAKERS TRACK
Nov 14 2002
8AM - 12NN Session 1 Practical Feng Shui for House Planning
12.30PM - 5PM Session 2 Feng Shui for Everyday Living
NOV 15 2002
8AM - 12NN Session 3 Interior Decorating on a Shoestring Budget
12.30PM - 5PM Session 4 Creating New Setting at a Minimal Cost
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8AM - 12NN Session 5 Pocket Gardens, Hybrids and Floral Arrangements
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Allan Velilla
Field Researcher
Bayer CropScience

To be truly immersed in the fight against their foes, I hold my friends close but the enemy closer.

This is the most important value I learned from my company: **to go beyond books and study the subject first-hand.** To examine the factors hindering growth. To provide solutions for a bountiful harvest. Having gained a knowledge no manual can provide, I'll be able to devise a better product to help my friends. **YOUR PARTNER FOR GROWTH.**

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DBM expects October revenues to hit target

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday the government was expecting its tax collections to meet the target for October, sustaining a recovery in revenues seen in August and September.

The government nearly hit its monthly revenue target in September, which would have been the first time this year after missing its targets earlier.

"This is based on what I heard during the revenue conference, definitely October is much better, because our turnaround is August and it continued in September, and October is going to be in the same range," Boncodin said in an interview on television.

Boncodin did not give actual figures.

Collections by the Bureau of Internal Revenue, which account for 70 percent of the government's total revenue, reached P32.4 billion in September, almost hitting the P32.7 billion target for the month.

The government's September revenue was up 14.5 percent year-on-year.

In August, the government's revenues reached P51.5 billion, up 14.8 percent from a year earlier.

The country's budget deficit for the first nine months of the year had hit P166.47 billion, or 4 to 4.1 percent of the gross domestic product. The deficit exceeded an earlier upwardly revised full-year target of 4 percent of GDP.

This has prompted the government to again revise its full-year budget deficit target to at most 4.5 percent of GDP, or roughly about P175 billion, which analysts said was still below market forecasts for a deficit as high as P200 billion.

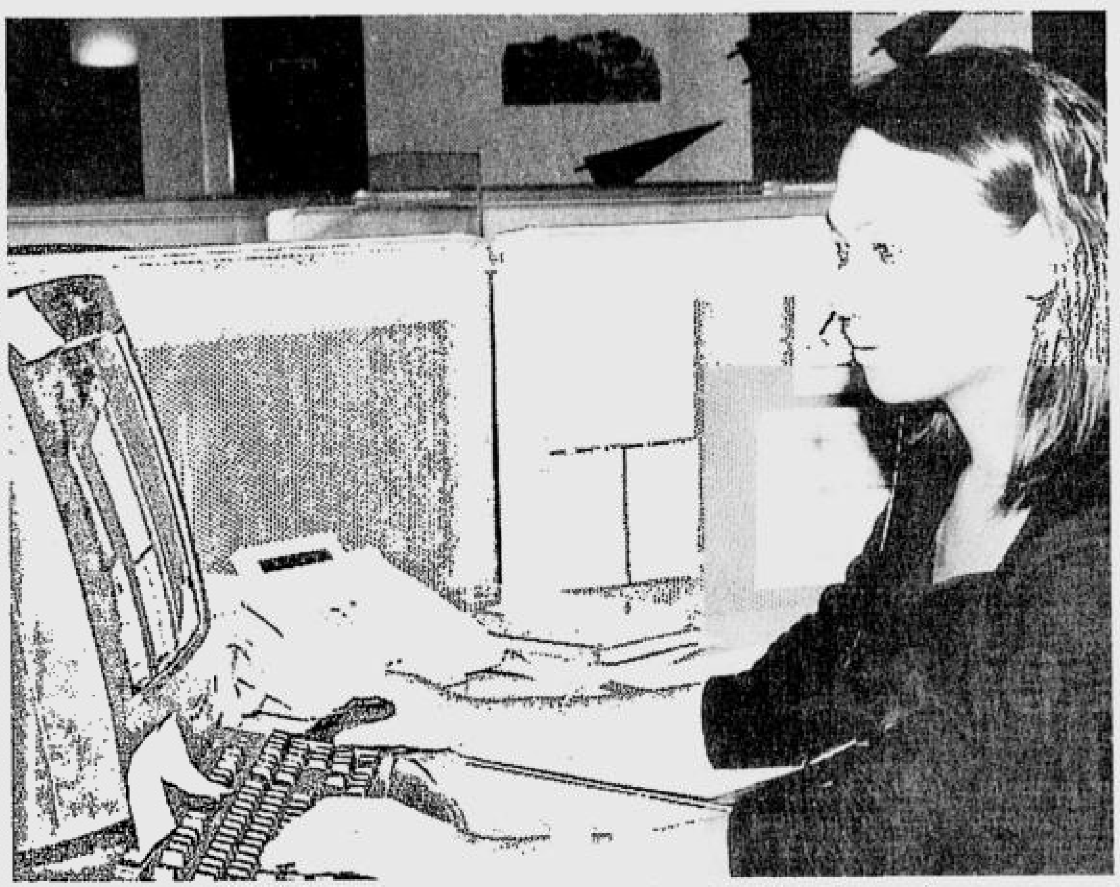
Investors have been closely watching the Philippines' budget deficit, the country being a large borrower in the overseas bond markets.

Credit ratings agency Standard & Poor's had downgraded its rating outlook on the Philippines from stable to negative because of worries on the fiscal front but reaffirmed the BB-plus ratings for the country, which are just below investment grade.

The ratings agency said the Philippine government had temporarily lost control of its public finances.

On the other hand, Moody's Investors Service said it was keeping its stable credit outlook on the Philippines, saying the ballooning budget deficit was balanced by the country's strong balance of payments position. *Reuters*

Erratic but exciting, that's life in call centers according to 'Ants'



FILIPINO professionals getting used to, and actually enjoying, the call center experience.

"BEING an insomniac will work for you here. The first few months were pretty dreadful because of the night shift. I had to allow caffeine to flow through my bloodstream just to stay awake. Your body clock gets to adjust eventually," says Anthony G. Robles, Ants to friends, a customer service representative.

For the two past years, the call center business has been spreading like wildfire in the Philippines. Foreign, as well as local companies, have invested in call center services to ensure continuity of relationship with current and future clients. Multinational companies outsource support operations to labor-rich countries that are able to provide uninterrupted service.

The Philippines is a gold mine for highly-skilled individuals who are easily trainable and comfortable with the use of the English language. Possessing these traits, many young individuals, eager to fast-track their introduction to the corporate world, are trying their hands in the call center industry.

Like most of our university and college graduates who aim to be employed right after graduation, 22-year-old Ants took notice of the booming call center industry. With only a vague image of call center agents wearing headsets who earn higher than the usual wage and who repetitively answer questions from customers, Ants took the plunge and applied as a customer service representative or CSR.

Armed with good communication skills and truckloads of empathy and patience. Ants was eventually hired by Customer Contact Center Inc. (C-Cubed), one of the fastest growing call center networks in the country. This AB Communications and BS Advertising Management graduate of De La Salle Manila has been working for C-Cubed for a year and a half now.

Erratic shifts

With sporadic schedules and erratic shifts, many people wonder how a call center agent manages his time for work and social life. Aptly nicknamed after the hardworking ant, Ants has learned to balance his time spent for work and personal life.

The way he spends his weekends does not differ much from how other people his age spend theirs. He goes bar-hopping with friends, belts out high notes in KTVs or hangs out with friends in the comfort of his house. He even finds time to write poems and essays every now and then.

Comparing his life before and after entering thecall center, his main adjustment was in going to work just when the rest of the world is going to bed, and going out on gimmicks when the sun rises. His body clock had to adjust accordingly.

"You have to sacrifice your old routines because of work. What I really miss the most is spending time with my friends and family," Robles admits. "Nowadays, I get to enjoy only a few moments with them, but when I do, I totally take advantage of those moments."

A CSR does not only deal with customers, they also deal with fellow employees. The people in C-Cubed are warm and there are many fun-filled activities for everyone. Friendship is formed among teams by exchanging ideas and listening to requests, suggestions and inputs.

Camaraderie

Contrary to Ants' initial view of a monotonous call center work, he realizes that being an agent does not only enhance his communication skills but also his skills in people management. C-Cubed's work program is specifically designed to foster camaraderie among all employees including the management. All employees are exposed to a number of activities that allow them to share with each other their talents and skills. The C-Cubed call center in Eastwood is walled with paintings done by agents on breaks.

Staying in a call center such as C-Cubed gave Ants a sense of belonging and freedom. The call center allows him to breathe by not restricting him to the usual business rules. For one, agents have the liberty to choose how to dress-up, as long as they are presentable.

"The call center allows employees to breathe. A sense of freedom dominates the atmosphere. It's fun, focused and fulfilling. It encourages diversity. It's in these diverse and talented people where the company gets its strength," Ants says.

It didn't take long for Ants to bloom as a CSR. After going through a number of training classes which include speech and grammar training, American culture training and product training, he was eventually promoted as team leader and to date, he has handled 21 other agents.

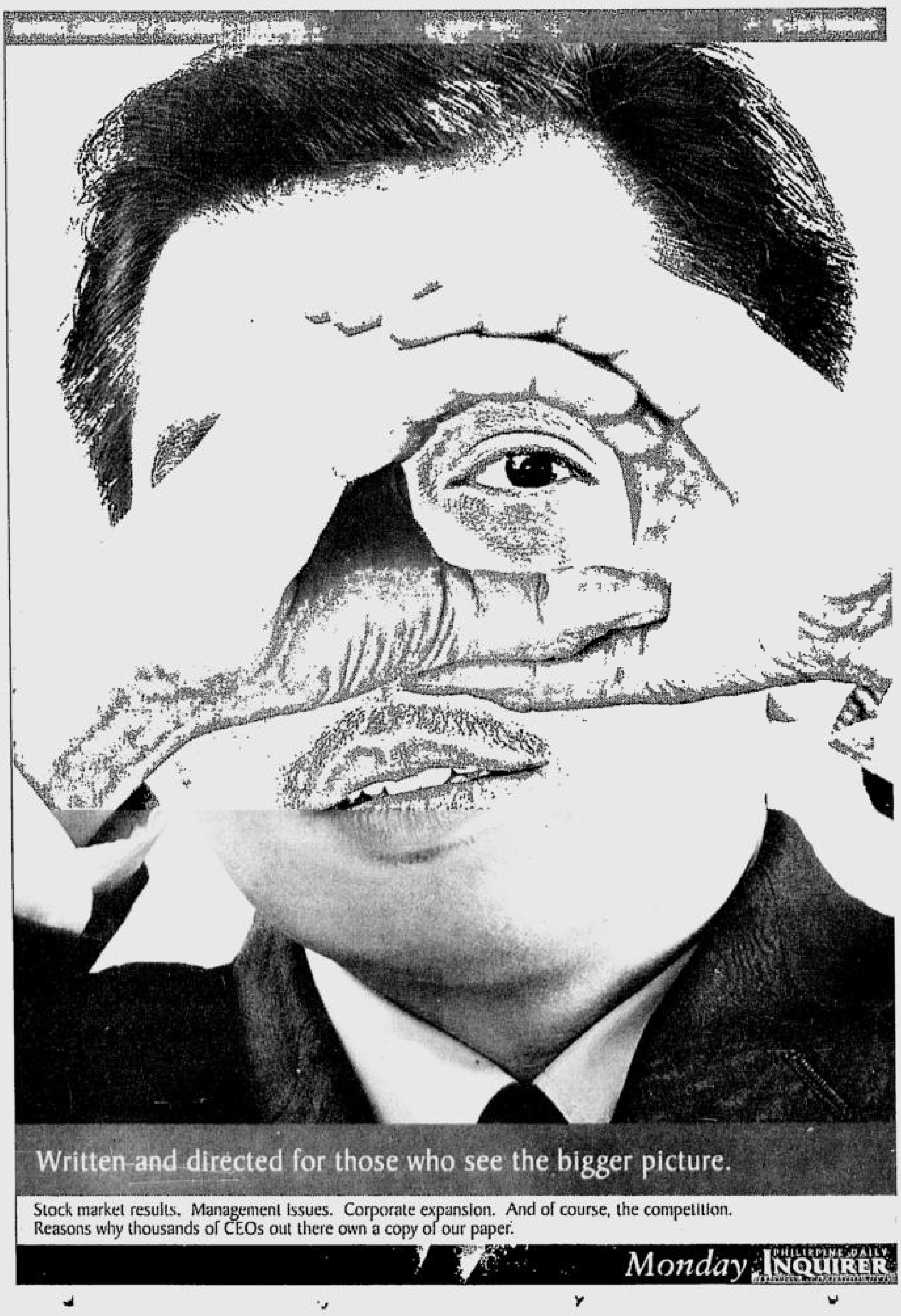
"As a team leader, I've learned that you're not predestined to lose or suffer. However, you have to look after your agents because they are now your responsibility. Each agent is unique—in personality motivation, and working styles" Ants explains. He saw the essence of tapping his own values and experiences to be able to influence and lead his team. Ants adds that sincerely inspiring others requires engaging both the mind and the heart.

Recognition

Having such dedicated and hard-working employees, C-Cubed, in line with the global employee recognition program of its joint venture partner, New-Jersey based Source One Communications, gives due recognition to its outstanding agents. After a careful screening, two agents emerged winners—Louise Solis, named the Most Outstanding Call Center Agent, and Ants, who bagged the Most Outstanding Team Leader award.

Ants was chosen most outstanding team leader based on a set of criteria that includes good performance in managing the team and in facilitating the growth of call center agents, consistency in maintaining good ratings and attendance. Ants' team consistently wins the honor of getting the highest overall quality scores.

"For those aiming to be the next awardees, just do your best. In my case, I believe the team leader must be a champion in dealing with other teams and with other people. Most of all, a team leader should foster open communication and human connection among members," Ants advises his fellow employees in the call center.



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'Basin sellers' ...

From page B1

ture, the carbon compounds get squeezed with hydrogen and become crude oil, natural gas, coal and other fuel.

"The basins reach 7 to 8 km, even up to 10 km deep," Caluyong adds. "Compared to those in the Middle East, our sedimentary basins are young."

He says this explains why the Arabian basins have more fuel deposits. "Theirs are more mature and, therefore, had more time to turn dead plants and animals to hydrocarbons."

Caluyong is coordinator of the team behind the Philippine Petroleum Exploration Investment Promotion, or Philpro. The team consists of members from the DOE's Oil and Gas Division, and Holopainen is working with them.

Changing perceptions

"Many companies exploring for oil and gas think there is none in the country," Holopainen says. "Our job is to change this perception."

Holopainen thinks the Philippines is under-explored because exploration companies have not been informed enough of what the country has.

Worries of a supply crisis that may result if the United States attacks Iraq make the task all the more important.

"When global oil prices are as high as they are now, it is more attractive to look for oil," Holopainen says.

At the same time, he adds, the situation makes it more pressing for the country to have a local source of oil.

Government data show that the country produced only 420,000 barrels of crude for the entire 2000 against a daily consumption of at least 330,000 barrels.

Production went up this year when the Malampaya oil reserve produced about 2 million barrels. But that was just during a six-month test period. Project operator Shell Philippines Exploration BV has since stopped the oil flow and is still waiting for results that will tell whether Malampaya oil is worth the investment.

Holopainen's and the Philpro team's mission is a tall order, but they are quite confident.

"The Philippine Petroleum Resource Assessment (Philpra) project has given us the bullets, and the Philpro team has to use these in the right way," he says.

Philpra project

The Philpra project was an 18-month "inventory" of fuel deposits in the country. Completed last March with the help of the Norwegian government, Philpra gave the energy department a fair estimate of just how much fuel is lodged in the country's sedimentary basins.

Just how can anyone know what is under the earth? Geologists have a way of "seeing" to figure out whether some formations of the earth deep beneath the ground are the kind that can trap petroleum. These days, this is usually done through what is called a seismic survey.

When the survey is on land, explosive charges are set off on the surface, which send energy waves that bounce off rocky structures below. Recording the reflected waves allow geologists to plot the shapes and depths of these formations. The result is a graphic representation—a picture, if you will.

Geologist Caluyong explains: "If the survey is done at sea, they use a ship that emits a kind of (sound wave) that is collected with mat-like streamers trailing the vessel. An image can be made up through this, with a range of up to the bottom of the basin."

Project results

Funded through a grant from the Norwegian Agency for Development Cooperation, the Philpra project was aimed at coming up with the following:

- A fresh analysis of all existing seismic data, reports on previously drilled wells and other geological data.
- A comprehensive assessment of the country's total petroleum resources using state-of-the-art software.
- A team that has the expertise and data to aid exploration companies in their assessment of potential investment sites.

Working from September 2000 to March 2002, the Philpra project team determined that the Philippines had 16 sedimentary basins covering an area of over 700,000 square kilometers—a World Bank-funded study done in 1986 showed only 13 basins.

This finding meant that the country's hydrocarbon resource potential was larger than previously projected, amounting to a mean recoverable resource equivalent to at least 8.9 billion barrels of oil, 85 percent of which had yet to be discovered.

16 basins

Of the country's total petroleum resources, natural gas accounts for 57 percent, or 5 billion barrels, oil is 41 percent, or 3.6 billion barrels, and gas condensate is 2 percent, or 0.2 billion barrels.

The 16 basins are Cagayan, Ilocos, Central Luzon, West Luzon, Bicol Shelf, Southeast Luzon, Mindoro-Cuyo platform, West Masbate-Iloilo, Visayan, Northwest [illegible]an, Southwest Palawan, East Palawan, Reed Bank, Sulu Sea, Cotabato and Agusan-Davao.

(To be continued)

BSP, DOF pushing for review of 2003 targets

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas has ruled out a review of the export and external payments targets this year but said it would ask the economic team to carefully assess forecasts for 2003.

BSP Governor Rafael Buenaventura has recommended a thorough assessment of the country's export target for 2003 to take into consideration both the substantial growth in shipments this year and the possibility that the tension between the United States and Iraq could slow down the growth of Philippine exports to its biggest market.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho said he was open to a review of the macroeconomic targets for 2003, including export figures, but added that the government would definitely keep its targets for 2002 unchanged.

Exports grew by 8.8 percent in the first nine months of the year. Exports shipments in September, alone, grew by 16.8 percent from the year-ago level.

"We might as well review the numbers where we have some upside potential. Rising exports will help offset some of the negative factors the economy is facing, like the budget deficit. It is good for the exchange rate and for economic growth," said the central bank chief.

BSP Deputy Governor Amando Tetangco Jr. said the central bank would no longer recommend a revision in this year's export and external payments targets. For this year, the government is targeting a 4 percent growth in exports and a balance of payment surplus of $149 million.

Camacho said the economic team would have to consider this year's export performance in finalizing its figures for 2003.

Tetangco said that as far as the BSP was concerned, it would recommend an 8-percent export growth target for next year, lower than the 10 percent target set by the Development Budget Coordination Committee.

Instead of booking $36.781 billion in receipts from exports next year, an 8 percent growth would yield $36.11 billion. But that, he said, should be the worst case scenario should the US-Iraq conflict escalates.

The conflict is expected to put pressure on an already vulnerable US market where the Philippines sells more than 30 percent of its produce.

The central bank leads the technical group that estimates and tracks the country's export performance, with trade considered one of the major components of the external accounts of the country.

This year, the central bank is expecting exports to exceed the four percent target as overseas sales of locally-produced goods have so far grown by an average of more than 7 percent monthly.

Buenaventura believes that exports this year would grow by at least 6 percent.

From a zero-growth projection, the government has revised the country's export target to a 4-percent increase. Last year, the country's export earnings contracted by 15.7 percent.

A 4-percent growth can give the government $33.437 billion in export receipts this year.

An 11 percent growth in imports next year would translate to $34.734 billion in import bill. This year, imports are seen to grow by 6 percent.

Copra supply seen further tightening

THE TIGHT copra supply in the Philippines, which led to lower coconut oil exports in October, is expected to worsen in coming months, traders said yesterday.

Preliminary data from the United Coconut Association of the Philippines Inc released last week said Philippine coconut oil exports fell in October to 87,200 tons, compared with 105,444 tons shipped in October last year.

Copra is the dried coconut meat from which coconut oil is extracted.

"It was due to lower production of copra which led to slowing down of crushing by other mills," said one trader.

"The copra supply is expected to get tighter in coming months due to the low production cycle," he added.

The Philippines is the world's largest exporter of coconut oil. The country shipped 99,446 tons of coconut oil in September this year.

Traders estimated the country's copra production in 2002 at 2.2 million tons, down from 2.85 million tons produced in 2001.

"However, if El Niño won't hit us, I think the supply in 2003 should recover," said one trader.

"It was supposed to be this time already, but so far, there is no sign," he said.

El Niño, which has previously caused drought in the region, was expected to hit the Philippines in the fourth quarter. *Reuters*

MALAMPAYA PROJECT

Palawan, nat'l gov't near revenue-sharing deal

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—The provincial government has stepped closer to the signing of the controversial memorandum of agreement on the share of the Province of Palawan from the revenues to be generated by the Malampaya Deep Water Gas-to-Power Project after the provincial board approved a resolution authorizing the governor to enter into an agreement with the national government.

Only board member Gerardo V. Ortega voted against the resolution.

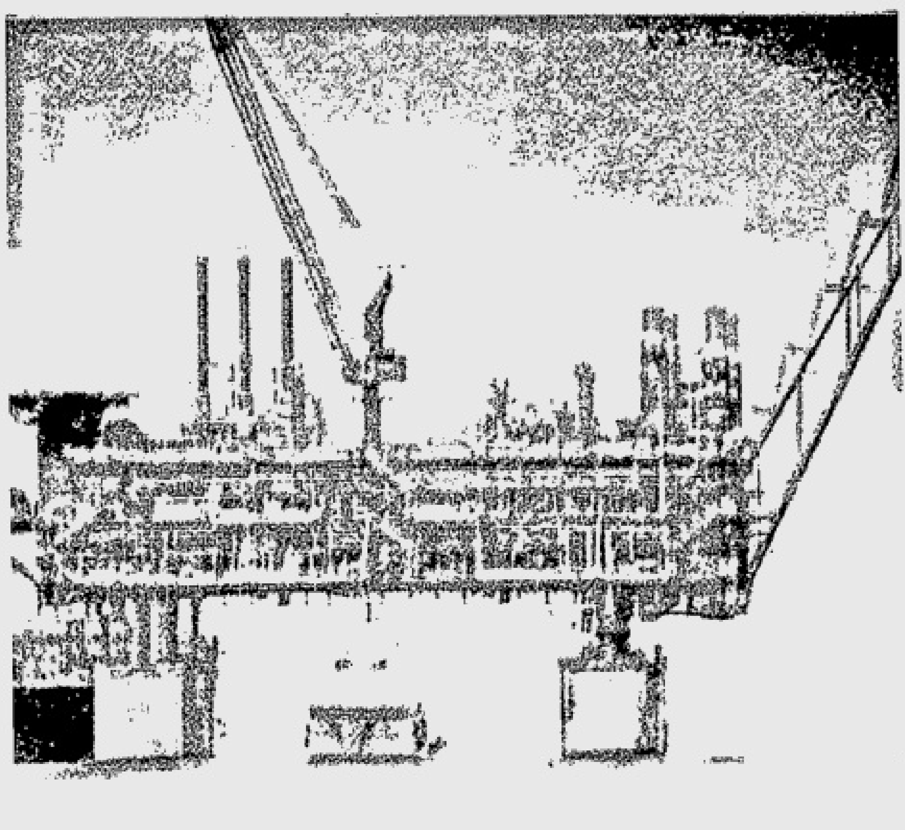
This developed as the controversial memorandum of agreement became the subject of a debate between top government leaders and concerned individuals at the Barcelo-Asturias Hotel here on Wednesday.

Vice Gov. David Ponce de Leon and public affairs and information officer Rolando Bonoan Jr., representing Gov. Joel T. Reyes, presented arguments in favor of the MOA while Ortega and former provincial budget officer Cesar R. Ventura expressed their disapproval.

Bonoan argued that the continental shelf could not be used as a basis for the province's claim over the territorial jurisdiction of Malampaya.

Bonoan also said that during the extraction of oil in the West Linapacan Oil field, the province received 40 percent from its revenue.

Later, however, the Department of Budget Management sent a letter to Ventura, when he was still the provincial budget officer, saying that it was not clear which barangay or municipality has the jurisdiction over the oil field and thus, the supposed 80-percent share earmarked for the province will no longer be given. "It will set a bad precedent if we will push through with our claim on," it said.



MALAMPAYA gas platform

Ortega criticized the series of public consultations conducted earlier by the provincial board in different municipalities, saying "they seemed more like a MOA promotion or endorsement forums since only opinions in favor of MOA were presented."

He argued that the "signing the MOA is not wise, moral and legal." He added that "a signed MOA is a kind of waiver as it waives the legal share of the province of Palawan and recognizes the ownership of the national government of the entire Philippine share in the project, instead of a 60:40 ownership scheme."

He added that the MOA was deceptive and that it would rob the province of its rightful share.

Ortega and Ventura also presented the geological study conducted by Jose Antonio Socrates stating that the continental shelf of the province extends up to where the Malampaya project is located.

"It has come to a point where the claim of the province is like an irresistible force and the position of the national government is an immovable object, and these two are about to collide," he said.

Some quarters are thinking of bringing up this matter to court. This idea came up when President Macapagal-Arroyo said the Malampaya project was "off the province of Palawan." *Geraldford P. Ticke, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau*

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BREAKTHROUGH DEAL

Japan allows RP carriers to operate more flights

By Abigail L. Ho

THE PHILIPPINES has secured nine new frequencies and one landing point from Tokyo, giving the country's airlines more access to Japan's more lucrative routes.

In an interview yesterday, Civil Aeronautics Board vice chair Adelberto Yap told the INQUIRER convincing the Japanese panel to agree to the Philippines' demands was "quite a feat" since Tokyo had always been reluctant to renegotiate.

After two days of intense discussions, however, the Japanese air panel finally agreed to the Philippines' demand for nine frequencies, Yap said.

The Japanese panel also agreed to give Philippine carriers landing rights in Okinawa's Naha Airport.

Before the negotiation, the country's airlines only had landing rights in Narita, Osaka, Fukuoka and Nagoya.

Yap said the addition of the Okinawa airport was very timely, as many American soldiers coming here for joint military exercises were stationed in Okinawa.

"(The Manila-Okinawa) route is very lucrative, as many American military personnel come from there, together with their equipment, cargo and their dependents. It's also a good landing point, as Philippine carriers can go to all our other landing points in Japan, except Nagoya, from there," he said.

Yap said at the start of the air talks on Oct. 28, the Japanese air panel initially wanted to give the country only one additional frequency, but the Philippine air panel insisted that it was willing to go back to the Philippines empty-handed if it would be given just one frequency.

The Japanese panel only gave in to the Philippine panel's demand for nine more frequencies and a new landing point after much chiding and convincing, Yap said.

"We had a really difficult time negotiating with them, with our two-day talks lasting up to 3 a.m., because we couldn't agree on how exactly to word the agreement," he said.

Aircraft-type restrictions also had to be stated clearly in the agreement, as Japanese carriers had bigger aircraft than the Philippines, he added.

He explained that this particular provision in the agreement was very important as the Philippine-Japan air service agreement used the "coefficient method" in counting frequency entitlements.

With the coefficient method, one wide-bodied aircraft is equivalent to two narrow-bodied jets.

Instead of removing seats in the aircraft, which was what the Japanese initially wanted to do to be able to stick with the restrictions, Yap said the two air panels agreed to just turn excess seats on their aircraft into "crew rests" that would not generate any revenues.

The nine new frequencies will initially be assigned to flag carrier Philippine Airlines Inc. since it is the only one flying to Japan right now, he said.

Neda cites 5 'stumbling blocks' to agrarian reform program

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE GOVERNMENT has identified five problem areas that it has vowed to address to speed up the implementation of the comprehensive agrarian reform program, which should have been completed in 1998.

According to the medium-term development program drawn up by the National and Economic Development Authority, only 67.5 percent of the total land targeted for distribution under CARP has been distributed so far.

Some 2.62 million hectares have yet to be distributed to farmers, according to Neda.

One reason behind the "slow and protracted" implementation of CARP is inadequate funding, which makes the program dependent on political lobbying, Neda said.

In 2000, the approved budget for CARP land acquisition was only P200 million, or about 10 percent of what the government needed.

Another problem area identified by Neda is continuing resistance from landowners whose expectation of "fair market value" often exceeds the estimated land market value.

The MTDP also cited the presence of problematic lands and those without documentation and deductibles.

Other stumbling blocks are the unstable peace and order situation in some areas, and failure to install agrarian reform beneficiaries on awarded lands.

Meralco gets IT protection systems

DATA firm ePLDT is providing the Manila Electric Co., the country's biggest distributor of electricity, with systems designed to prevent unauthorized access to Meralco's information technology assets and unplanned power outages.

ePLDT, a subsidiary of No. 1 telecom firm Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co., is upgrading Meralco's physical security setup into a more high-technology system.

The new system includes finger scan devices, proximity card readers, Hirsch access control modular panels and digital video recorders.

ePLDT will also provide Meralco with a "physical security policy template" for reference and guidance.

These systems are designed to prevent unauthorized access to Meralco's data center, minimizing accidents that can lead to interruptions of services to the company's clients.

ePLDT provides a tiered level of access and security for identified and sensitive areas inside the data center. This means any individual wanting to do something to the data center will go through multiple layers of security.

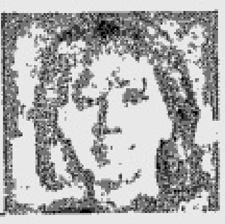
These sensitive areas are then monitored through digital recordings of video footage from cameras deployed within the data center.

Abigail L. Ho

Clean air: Now or never!

MINDANAO ONE

Joji Ilagan-Bian



TAKING the plane ride from Davao to Manila allows you to have a breathtaking view of Taal Lake during the final minutes of the flight. One can fully appreciate the beauty of the lake and the volcano lying smack on its center, the countryside with its tableau of farms and towns tucked in the middle of fields teeming with produce that will soon find their way to the market, and eventually to dinner tables in homes in and around the national capital region. However, the beautiful landscape suddenly assumes a disappointing face as the plane assumes its final flight path to the airport. The green soon gives way to gray, and life appears to have a drab outlook as one looks at the choking haze that makes Manileños literally see the air they breathe.

The experience is similar to reading a magazine with half-toned pages, only this time the half-tone has a tendency to envelope you with a greasy film churned up by vehicles and solid waste dumps that oftentimes wait for days before being properly disposed. I'm not saying that Manila is filthy through and through—the smog gripping it just doesn't offer people a clear perspective most of the time. Now ranked as the fourth most polluted city in Asia, Manila surely is drowning in its own emissions—residents and all.

The speedy implementation of the RA 8749 (The Clean Air Act of 1999) offers Manila and the rest of the country a good chance of avoiding the experience of another Asian city like Bangkok, where traffic snarls whip up clouds of carbon monoxide, lead and benzene. However, certain interests in the Senate and House of Representatives are somehow bent on putting a stay on its enforcement. One readily gets the impression that our lawmakers could be easily turned on by a much-needed piece of legislation today and be turned off the next. The exercise may not necessarily be whimsical in nature, but is in itself a phenomenon to behold. In local parlance: *Mahirap basahin*.

We still have to see political will exercised by our elected lawmakers.

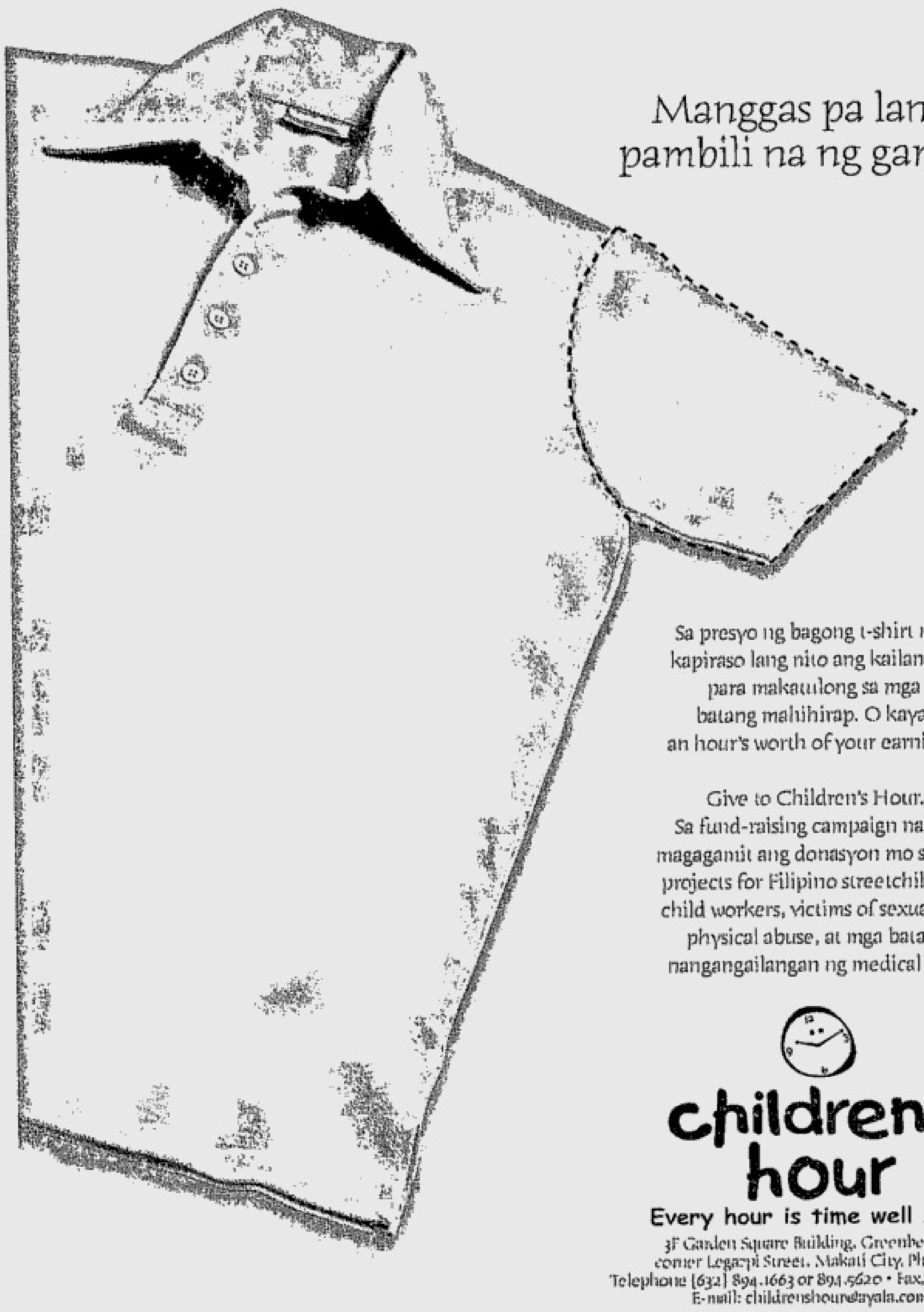
In fact, not all of them seem to have the guts to breathe freely, much more clean up their acts in this particular case. Save for Rep. Nereus Acosta of Bukidnon and the Senate committee on environment headed by Sen. Gringo Honasan, these interests in Congress somewhat lost their potency by dillydallying on the issue.

It is fortunate for Mindanao to be free from the smog and the solid waste dumps common to highly urbanized and industrialized areas like Manila. But as more companies set their sights south and more people crave for lebensraum, the time will come when Mindanao has to confront issues such as pollution, overpopulation and solid waste disposal.

Breathing is not just a physiological function of the body. It is undeniably a right to be enjoyed and protected.

It is about time to rally support for the implementation of the law. The time to do so should not be 5, 10, or 15 years from now when it is too late to reverse the damage to people and the environment. The Clean Air Act is not just an "act" in the pejorative sense. It is about caring for nature, it is about fighting for what is true and sensible. Most of all, it is about caring for the world that we are just borrowing from the future generations.

We must push for the Clean Air Act, now or never. *(The author is chair of Mindanao Business Council and country director of East Asean Business Council.)*



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China seeks free trade zone with Japan, Korea

WORKERS are silhouetted by the early morning sky as they erect scaffolding on a construction site in Beijing. While China's people have been given unprecedented economic liberties over the past 20 years with Beijing's skyline changing forever with shiny new high-rise buildings, the political system remains frozen with experts saying this cannot continue forever. AFP

PHNOM PENH, Cambodia—China has proposed establishing a free trade zone with Japan and South Korea, according to a Japanese official.

Chinese Premier Zhu Rongji raised the suggestion in a meeting with Japanese Prime Minister Junichiro Koizumi and South Korean Prime Minister Kim Suk-soo, said the official who briefed reporters on condition of anonymity.

They agreed to let private-sector experts study the feasibility of the deal to strengthen ties between the world's biggest nation and two top industrialized economies, the official said.

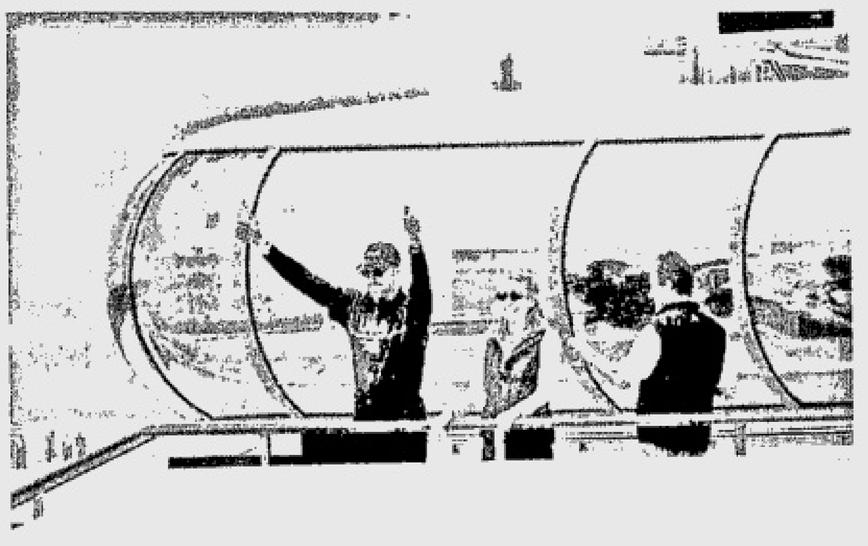
A free trade deal would presumably facilitate commerce and investment by bringing down tariffs and other barriers.

No timetable was set for reaching an agreement, according to the Japanese official.

The leaders met during a summit of the 10 members of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations that also was being attended by China, Japan, South Korea, India and South Africa.

China was expected later in the day to sign a draft agreement setting the timetable for a free trade pact with Asean nations to be established within a decade. *AP*

Rich sail through slump on superyachts



ONE of the few in the world who can afford a superyacht, Oracle Corp.'s Larry Ellison, on board his "Katana." AFP

FORT LAUDERDALE, Florida—Despite corporate scandals and an economy in the doldrums, the superrich are still enjoying a life on the ocean wave, according to yachting industry executives.

Demand for multimillion-dollar floating gin palaces is still buoyant, with more than 500 on the order books of shipyards across the globe, Kaye Pearson, organizer of the Fort Lauderdale International Boat Show, said.

The show, which took place at the weekend, featured the world's largest collection of superyachts—yachts over 80 feet in length—with 227 moored in marinas in this south Florida boating industry capital.

The grandest of them all is the 206-foot "Big Roi," with a price tag of $25 million. Built by Royal Denship of Denmark, the ocean-going yacht has its own helipad, an elevator and can carry a 37-foot sport fishing boat.

Typical features on the luxury boats include Tuscan marble interiors, walnut- and mahogany-paneled saloons, Jacuzzis and rotating beds.

Pearson, president of Yachting Promotions Inc., said the weak economy had greatly affected the US boating industry in general, a big money-spinner in the Florida economy. But he said: "We've seen positive signs this fall. Hopefully we are over the worst." Low interest rates were attracting buyers and the market was active, he said.

As far as any slowdown in demand for superyachts was concerned: "We've been hearing a lot about the Enrons, the Worldcoms, the gloom and the doom." Nevertheless, more than 500 superyachts are currently on shipyards' order books, he said. That compared to 225 to 240 five years ago.

There were 5,800 superyachts on the seas compared to about 2,500 12 years ago.

"Has it slowed down? It couldn't last for ever. I don't think we're talking about any problem. We're talking about an anticipated leveling off of that increase as opposed to a downturn in the interest of superyachts." In fact, the big spenders were splashing out more on the higher end on boats of 150 feet (46 meters) or more, dubbed megayachts.

So who is buying these aristocrats of the boating world when many people are feeling the pinch of austere times? Typically, American corporate executives, Pearson said.

American purchases now make up 45 percent of superyacht sales, compared to 10 to 12 percent about 10 years ago.

"You don't see so much of the old money that you did in the robber baron days," he added.

Leading luxury yacht builder Palmer Johnson reported a flurry of activity in its yards.

Work has just been completed on the state-of-the-art "Anson Bell," a 156-foot three-decked megayacht. *Reuters*

Camera phone market booms, but Nokia lags, survey shows

LONDON—The fast-growing market for camera phones in the otherwise stagnant mobile phone industry is being dominated by Asian handset makers, with Finland's Nokia still far behind, a survey showed on Monday.

Some 9.5 million mobile camera phones were sold around the world in the first nine months of 2002, of which 7.9 million in Japan alone and 97 percent of that total in the Asia Pacific region, US market research group Strategy Analytics reported.

Japan's Sharp, which is not even in the top 10 of mobile voice handset makers, was the leading camera phone supplier, having sold 3 million units to consumers in the period.

Although Nokia is the world leader in mobile handsets with 37 percent of the market, its rivals had sold millions of picture phones before it launched its first in the summer.

The market for camera phones, which allow users to take and send pictures straight from the handset, is growing rapidly to 4.6 million units sold in the third quarter from 3.2 million in the second.

It is still a fairly small part of the entire mobile phone market, which expects sales of some 400 million units this year.

Japan's NEC and Matsushita's Panasonic, Toshiba, Casio and South Korea's Samsung Electronics were giving Sharp strong competition, Strategy Analytics said in a report to be published on Tuesday.

"Everyone of these companies has sold more camera phones than Nokia," said senior analyst Neil Mawston, who estimates some 220,000 Nokia camera phones were bought by end-users in the third quarter.

In Western Europe, where Nokia's and Sony Ericsson's camera phones have been on sale since the summer, only 200,000 units were sold in the third quarter. The sales levels in Western Europe, Nokia's home market where it laid the foundations in for its global leadership, are similar to sales in Japan two years ago when picture messaging was first introduced by mobile carriers there.

Japanese vendors like Sharp are now coming to Europe, leveraging their two years of experience with local operators seeking to copy the success of aggressive Asian mobile carriers.

Britain-headquartered operator Vodafone will this year buy 400,000 Sharp camera phones to support the introduction of its new Live! service, offering it alongside models from Panasonic, Nokia and Sony Ericsson. Anglo-French operator Orange is buying phones from a Taiwanese contract maker.

Nokia's camera handset 7650 is slightly bulkier than most rivals and at an unsubsidized $650 it is estimated to be 10 to 30 percent more expensive than its Asian competitors. *Reuters*

Growing popularity of illegal song swap cuts into online music sales

SAN FRANCISCO—The growing popularity of CD burning and illegal song-swapping over the Internet has cut into online music sales, sending them tumbling 25 percent this year, according to a survey released Monday.

Internet sales of prerecorded music, such as CDs and cassette tapes, reached $545 million through the third quarter, well behind last year's total of $730 million for the same period, according to the study conducted by research firm comScore Networks.

The study found former Napster users flocked to alternative file-sharing networks such as Kazaa and Morpheus after Napster went offline in the summer of 2001. Morpheus' user base grew from fewer than one million in June of that year to 7.2 million by March 2002, comScore said.

Consumers increasingly are seeking the instant gratification of free downloads, and the ability to burn those downloads to blank CDs offers even more personalization and choice, said Phil Leigh, an analyst for Raymond James & Associates.

"The primary message of the CD burner is the consumer doesn't want to be straight-jacketed into buying a prepackaged CD," Leigh said. "I think what we're seeing is not only the death of the physical form factor, but the death of the prepackaged concept."

There are legitimate ways to buy downloads online, such as Listen.com's Rhapsody service, as well as MusicNet and pressplay, two joint ventures launched by the major recording companies to counter illegal song-sharing.

But those services have yet to release any figures on how many people have actually signed up, and it is hard to gauge their popularity in the face of free downloads from Morpheus and Gnutella network programs.

The comScore study only considered online purchases of recorded media such as CDs and tapes and did not look at paid music downloads.

In September, the chief executive of the Recording Industry Association of America, Hilary Rosen, testified at a congressional hearing on music piracy and peer-to-peer networks, saying public education about the illegality of unauthorized file-sharing was of the utmost importance.

"I wish I could tell you that there is a silver bullet that could resolve this very serious problem," Rosen said. "There is not." *Reuters*

Global trade in 'blood diamonds' at heart of international meeting

BERN—Representatives from diamond producing and trading countries, as well as the diamond industry, are meeting in the Swiss town of Interlaken in an attempt to stop "blood" diamonds reaching international markets, officials said.

The two-day meeting is part of the "Kimberley Process," aimed at fighting the trade in diamonds produced in areas of conflict, which had helped finance civil wars in countries such as Angola, Democratic Republic of the Congo or Sierra Leone.

This week's gathering, which will be co-chaired by South Africa and Switzerland, will bring together ministers in an attempt to set up an international certification system for rough diamonds.

But Swiss officials have indicated they are still not certain the system, allowing clear identification of the origin of the gems, would be finalized at Interlaken.

The effort started in South Africa in 2000. It is backed by the United Nations and 35 participating countries, including those of the Southern African Development Community and the European Union, as well as the diamond mining and cutting industries.

Gems produced in areas of conflict represent about 2 percent of world diamond output.

"Full and swift implementation of the Kimberly Process Certification Scheme must be ensured as soon as it has been agreed. The Council will take the necessary steps to this end," EU foreign ministers said in a statement last month.

The goal is to determine a diamond's origin when it passes through customs. *AFP*

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NOV. 7 (THURSDAY)

10:30 - 11:30am	Getting Your Message Across- The Sony Style by: Solid Video
1:00 - 2:00pm	PCB Prototyping Machine & PC Scope by: Hakko Philippines
2:15 - 3:15pm	Various Products Demo & New Techniques by: Loctite
3:30 - 4:30pm	Lead Inspection System by: Benchmark Systems

NOV. 8 (FRIDAY)

10:30 - 11:30am	Customized Turnkey Automation Capabilities @ LM Tech (Phil) (a joint venture between the LIONAPEX Group & MARUGO Industries Ltd.) by: L&M Tech - Lionapex
1:00 - 2:00pm	ESD Market Trends by: ESD Advanced Technology Corp.
2:15 - 3:15pm	Leadfree Finish of Semiconductor Components by:Greenchemicals Corp.
3:30 - 4:30pm	Surge Suppression Transformers by: Cebu Sarah Inc.- Digital Network Inc.

NOV. 9 (SATURDAY)

1:00 - 2:00pm	Company Profile and Product Introduction by:Nupon Technology
2:15 - 3:15pm	Omron Mechatronics of the Philippines Company Profile and Product Presentation by: Omron Mechatronics of the Philippines
3:30 - 4:30pm	Flow Injection Analysis for Environmental Monitoring by: Philab Industries

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SEMINAR ROOM 2

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3:30 - 4:30pm	Solder Paste Technology for BGA Packages by: Elitech Corporation

NOV. 7 (THURSDAY)

2:15 - 3:15pm	Integrated Solid/ Hazardous Waste Management by: PAE Environmental Company
3:30 - 4:30pm	Advances in ESD Control, Process Solutions and Cleaning Systems by: Hugle Technologies

NOV. 8 (FRIDAY)

10:30 - 11:30am	Innovative System for Manufacturing Processes by: Digi-Software
1:00 - 2:00pm	Establishing Competitive Advantage before your competitors do by: Global Implementation Services
2:15 - 3:15pm	New Technology from Edgeworth by: Edgeworth Corporation
3:30 - 4:30pm	Innovations in X-ray Technology from Phoenix by: SEMATEQ Inc.

NOV. 9 (SATURDAY)

10:30 - 11:30am	Industrial Control Valves & Automation by: Tytrade Internationl Corporation
3:30 - 4:30pm	Industrial Control Valves & Automation by: Claval U.S.A.

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Asean should buck up or risk losing investments, study says

PHNOM PENH—Southeast Asian economies have failed to capitalize on their strengths and face a serious competitive challenge, an independent study presented to Asean leaders at their summit here on Monday has warned.

The study was done by consulting firm McKinsey and Co. on a request by the 10-member Association of Southeast Asian leaders, concerned by the erosion of the region's economic competitiveness.

The firm conducted microeconomic analyses and sector studies, including interviews with more than 100 investor executives, with the findings benchmarked with the European Union as well as free trade areas being developed in North America and Latin America.

The study found the cost of doing business in Asean "unnecessarily high." The no-holds barred report was expected to be adopted by the leaders at their two-day summit, which opened Monday, and was to be used by a high-level task force set up by Asean's economic ministers to deepen integration beyond a free trade area being set up in the region, Asean secretary general Rodolfo Severino told reporters.

Malaysian Foreign Minister Syed Hamid Albar, commenting on the report, said Asean leaders realized certain "bold and cohesive political decisions" should be made to ensure the region progressed.

Asean, with a total population of 500 million people, is implementing a free trade area in which its senior members—Brunei, Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines, Singapore and Thailand—will totally abolish tariffs for intra-regional trade by 2010.

Newer members Cambodia, Laos, Burma and Vietnam are to dismantle all tariffs 10 years later.

The McKinsey study stressed that Asean, once the world's fastest investment-driven region, "faces a serious competitiveness challenge" even though more than 75 percent of its exports were in the highest growth sectors globally.

Also, despite its vast natural resources, human resources potential and a total market size comparable to coastal China, Asean had "failed to fully capitalize on its strength," the study said.

It also noted Asean's investment and export trends were "worrying, as investors are deterred by problems created by the limited integration of Asean, with few viewing the region as a single market."

"Asean's small, fragmented markets are not attractive to investors compared to the large Chinese market and more integrated regions elsewhere in the world," the study said. *AFP*

Ford to use Taiwan as Asia research hub

TAIPEI—Ford Motor Co. plans to expand its Taiwan research and development unit into a regional center, a Ford Taiwan spokesperson said Monday.

"To achieve the goal, Ford will invest 10 billion Taiwan dollars ($287 million) over the next three years in research and development on the island," said the spokesperson from Ford Lio Ho Motor Co., the local joint venture in which the US automaker has a 70-percent stake.

"Taiwan has become a vital part of Ford's efforts in global resource integration," she said.

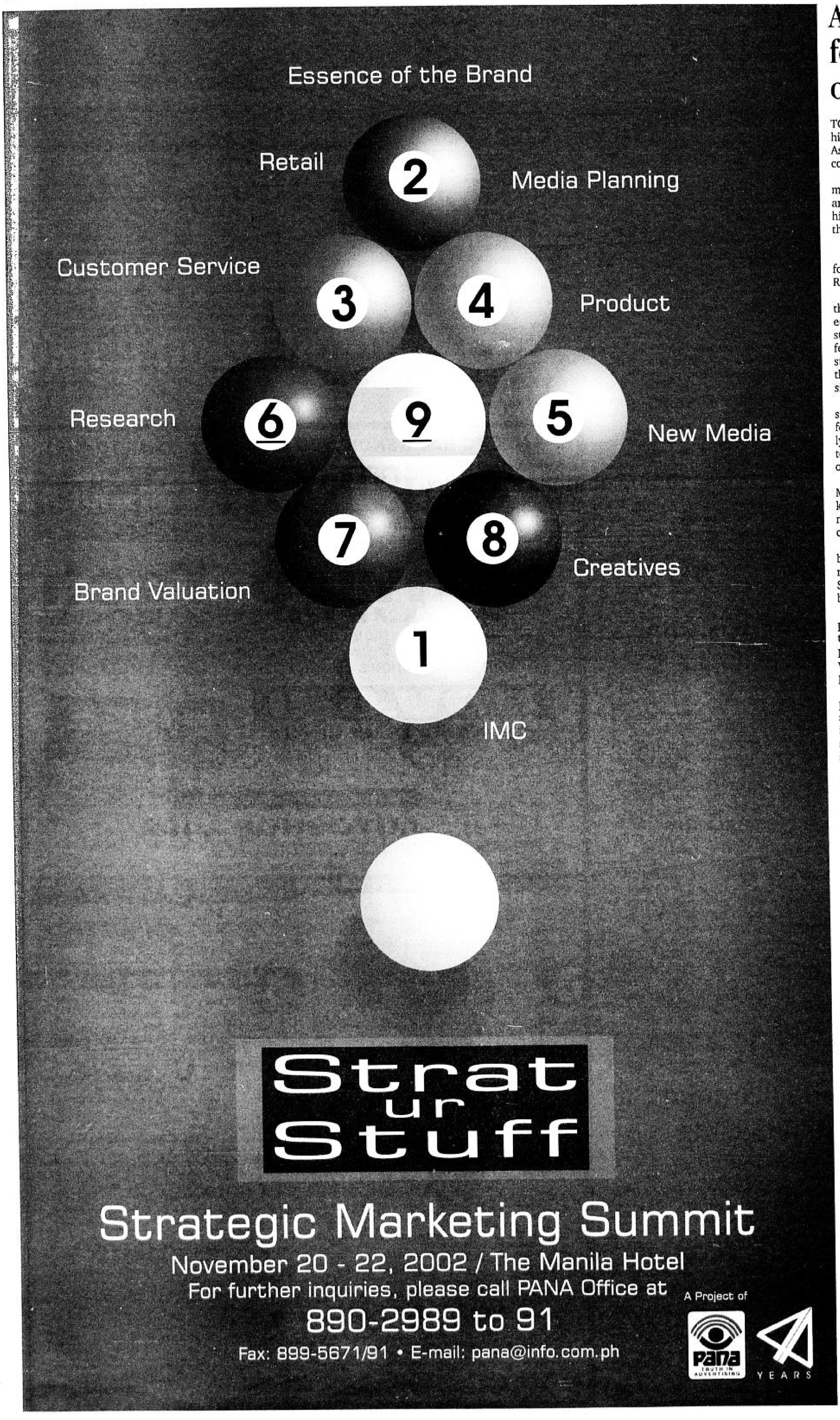
Apart from Taiwan, Ford has another regional research and development center in Australia.

The current Taiwan center is transferring product designs and know-how mainly to Ford's production bases in China, Thailand, the Philippines and Vietnam.

"We are hoping to also export Taiwan's research and development results to other areas in the future," she added.

Ford Lio Ho unveiled in October the MetroStar passenger car in the local market.

The automaker plans to launch at least one other passenger car and a recreational vehicle by the end of the year, she said. *AFP*



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Asia's golden era for fund firms is over, UBS says

TOKYO—Reclining in a red leather chair in his Tokyo boardroom, Kai Sotorp, UBS Global Asset Management's new Asia Pacific chief, could be forgiven for feeling content.

He's just been promoted, he's based in the most promising region in the world economy and on his doorstep in Japan capital flows to his industry could be at least $60 billion over the next five years.

But he's far from complacent.

"The golden opportunity, the golden era for fund managers, is over," Sotorp told Reuters in a recent interview.

With major global equity markets facing their third straight year of losses and world economic growth dangerously close to stalling, money managers have seen their fee-generating asset bases slashed. They are struggling to persuade clients to entrust them with more of their capital as markets sink further.

That could spark serious rethinking of strategies in Asia, where opportunities for foreign managers—even in Japan which analysts estimate has $3 trillion in pension assets to manage—are relatively small and the costs of doing business high.

"Asia was an easy decision in the past. Managers were doing well in their home markets and were looking elsewhere for opportunities. Asia was booming and was a natural choice," Sotorp said.

"Now, markets at home and abroad have become increasingly challenging and they need to rethink their strategy globally," said Sotorp, whose operation is a unit of Swiss banking giant, UBS AG.

Market talk abounds that dozens of foreign pension, insurance and fund groups are on the verge of withdrawing from Japan or pulling in their horns so far that they may as well do, having failed to make the business pay despite 15 years of reform.

Money managers have been lured by the prospect of Japan's huge savings pool, the second largest in the world, and fast developing markets like China, which some analysts say will have to generate $4 trillion in pension assets by 2020.

Instead, they have encountered protected industries and political problems.

That has slowed the pace of market development, so much so that Japan's mutual fund market is estimated at only $300 billion, just three quarters of the amount that UBS alone manages for its clients around the world. *Reuters*

Hutchison still aims for paying 3G users by Dec.

HONG KONG—Hutchison Whampoa Ltd., lonely in its bullishness on third-generation mobile telecoms, has maintained that it aims to enlist paying customers for its European 3G service by year's end.

"Our plan remains unchanged. We hope to have paying customers by the end of the year," spokesperson Nora Yong said.

A report in the Financial Times newspaper said Hutchison, the ports-to-telecoms conglomerate controlled by Asia's richest businessman Li Ka-shing, had acknowledged that it might not deliver 3G handsets to customers by the end of the year.

Earlier this month, Hutchison began supplying multimedia-enabled 3G handsets to "friends" of the company in the United Kingdom and Italy. The firm has said it intends to sign up one million customers in each of those countries by the end of 2003.

Hutchison has sought to manage expectations over its 3G rollout, refusing to commit publicly to specific launch dates.

"We are not committing ourselves to any strict deadline, because we do not want to compromise the customer experience," Yong said.

"We want to make sure that it is a good product before we place it in the hands of customers." Yong said the company continued to iron out glitches in the service. *Reuters*

People, Events & Products

Aries Espinosa, Editor
aespinosa@inquirer.com.ph

Heavenly desserts at the Julius Maggi Kitchen

IN PREPARATION for the coming Christmas season, the Julius Maggi Kitchen will feature a sweet and delightful cooking demonstration called "Heavenly Desserts." Taking centerstage during the session will be chef Jill Sandique, blue ribbon graduate of Peter Kump's New York Cooking School. Come to the Julius Maggi Kitchen on Nov. 7, 12, 14, 21 and 23 and learn how to make creamy and luscious desserts that will help brighten the holiday parties and get-togethers. Joining Sandique will be Marilou Meligrito of Tesda, who will give a demo on "Angel-making," perfect gift-giving and décor treats for the coming holidays.

Meanwhile, for a hassle and stress-free Christmas party preparation, Julius Maggi Kitchen has invited Myrna Segismundo, noted culinary expert and author of the popular cookbook "The Party Cookbook," for a pay-session on Nov. 9 and 16. She will share some of her unique and useful tips in making holiday parties even more special.

In line with its November activities, the Julius Maggi Kitchen is glad to announce its various promos for the busy month – "Bring-a-Friend," "Lucky Labels," and "Buy and Win." Winners of these promos get special prizes.

"Bring-a-Friend" promo entitles Nestle Club members for a chance to win in a special raffle if they bring non-member friends during the sessions.

Meanwhile, if you bring Nestle Cream and Carnation Evap or Condensada labels with you, you are also entitled to win prizes in another special raffle. Just write your name, address and signature at the back of the Nestle Cream and Carnation labels and bring them on the scheduled sessions. Bring more labels and have more chances of winning.

But that's not all. When you come to the Julius Maggi Kitchen and purchase P100 worth of Nestle products at the special selling booth, you get a chance to pick a prize from a bowl. So buy more and win more.

For reservations and more information, call 726-9232 or 726-1016.

OUT-OF-COURT SETTLEMENT
Memorial industry leader Eternal Gardens Memorial Park Corp. ended a long-running legal dispute with the North Philippine Mission-Seventh Day Adventists Church over its park in Baesa, Quezon City as the two parties reached an out-of-court settlement recently. Officials said the compromise agreement finally gives peace of mind to thousands of owners of memorial lots at Eternal Gardens who faced uncertainty while the case was unresolved. Pictured at the signing of the agreement are, seated from left, lawyers Cirilo E. Doronila and Pompeyo C. Nolasco of the Quasha Ancheta Pena & Nolasco Law Office representing the Adventist group; and Gabriel O. Vida, president of Eternal Gardens. Standing from left are Manuel R. Cortez, executive vice president and general manager of Eternal Gardens; lawyer Donardo Paglinawan, also of Eternal Gardens; and Ambassador to Papua New Guinea Bienvenido Tejano. Tejano represented the NPUM-Adventist Church in the negotiations with Eternal Gardens with directives from the Adventists' headquarters in Washington, DC.

ALI SIGNS AGREEMENT WITH BAYANTRADE
Ayala Land Inc. (ALI) recently signed an agreement with BayanTrade to avail itself of the latter's eSourcing Plus Program. Under the program, ALI will use BayanTrade's sourcing facilities and services to source and procure up to P1billion worth of spend for 12 months. ALI's assistant vice president for materials management division Juanito Rosales (seated right) said eSourcing Plus—which will run from June 2002 to May 2003—will help the company save up to P300 million in procurement costs. Shown with Rosales are (seated left) Lance Gokongwei, BayanTrade chair, and (standing from left) Dante Briones, BayanTrade president and chief operating officer, and Carol Carreon, BayanTrade vice chair and chief executive officer.

INVESTING IN THE FUTURE
Believing that education serves as a backbone of society, the Philippine-Japan International Academic Foundation Inc. (PJIAF) recently staged its 3rd Japan-Philippine Educators International Conference at the Philippine International Convention Center (PICC). With its goal of strengthening RP-Japan relations, the conference gave participants some knowledge of the goals, organizations and practices of the educational systems of both the Philippines and Japan. According to lawyer Ernesto Martinez, PJIAF chair, the conference aims to provide an understanding of Japanese and Philippine customs and traditions. Through a network of businessmen, philanthropists and educators, the PJIAF has contributed to the development of education in the country. In 2001, P16 million were donated to the different educational institutions in Mindanao. The highlight of the day-long conference was a turnover ceremony of a Peace Bell and Japanese Flag at the Japanese Cemetery, New Bilibid Prisons Compound. Shown are, from left, Julio Arciaga, NBP assistant director, Dr. Felix Santos, Dr. Koji Iwakiri, president of the Japan Federation of Social Educators (JFSE), and Chief Priest Astushi Kawagoe, who blessed the bell.

Bacolod math workshop-confab

THE MATHEMATICS Trainers Guild (MTG) Philippines, in cooperation with Phoenix Publishing House, is holding the "2002 Basic Educators Updating Seminar-Workshop" and the "2002 Young Mathematicians Conference" this Nov. 16 at the Bacolod Tay Tong High School in Bacolod City. The theme of the back-to-back events is "Mathematics: The Frontier of the Future". The conference, which is for mathematically gifted students from grades 3 to 6 and from 1st to 3rd year high school, aims to allow the students to acquire new skills and a wider perspective in math. The educators' seminar-workshop, on the other hand, envisions the country to be at par with the newest trends, practices and math programs being implemented in other countries. The deadline for registration is on Nov 6. Call (034) 434-0262, 320-0870, (032)412-3608 (in Cebu); or Jose Caberte at 0919-8224618 in Bohol.

AIM consumer fair

THE STUDENT Association of the Asian Institute of Management (AIM), in cooperation with the Ayala Center, will hold the AIM Consumer Fair "United Entrepreneurial AIM Meets the Consumer" from Nov. 6 to 9 at the Greenbelt 1 Lobby, Makati City. The AIM Consumer Fair will showcase companies owned or led by AIM graduates, highlighting their quality products and services. The event will also include promotions, presentations and customer matching. The event is said to form part of SA's three-pronged project for 2002 and 2003. Proceeds of the event go to the renovation of the SA Store in AIM. For more details, call the Student Association Secretariat care of Jun Anne Pagtakhan and Addie Ureta at 892-4011 local 386, fax 840-3949, or e-mail aim_sa@dataserve.aim.edu.ph.

New EU waste law promotes more recycled products

THE EUROPEAN Union has come up with an amendment of the European Waste Electrical and Equipment directive as clinched recently by Chris David, European Parliament member.

The amendment, expected to become law within 30 months, seeks to encourage member states to design and produce electrical and electronic equipment that should be easy to dismantle and be recovered, reported David Connett, publisher of Recycler Trade Magazine.

Norbert Grimm, president of a local re-manufacturing company for electronic components such as inkjet and laserjet printer cartridges, said that the development should help boost the provisions in the Ecological Solid Waste Management Act or Republic Act No. 9003 for the reduction and prevention of waste accumulation, particularly from electrical and electronic components and materials, in the local waste stream.

Grimm's company, Printing Images CtC Inc based in the Subic Bay Freeport Zone (047-2526012 ; 0916-3053244; 896-9639; 896-9447), has bought from collectors some 100,000 pieces of used cartridges in the past month alone. With each piece weighing 45-50 grams, Grimm said, some 5,000 kg of metal and plastic would have turned toxic in a month alone, if these were not retrieved and re-manufactured.

Techinfo Solutions appointed IHS Philippine distributor

TECHINFO Solutions Inc., established to provide Philippine business with a "one-stop shop" for electronic libraries, was recently appointed as the local distributor of Information Handling Services Inc. (IHS), one of the world's largest single sources of information of technical standards, specifications, logistics and parts to corporations. IHS products serve the critical information needs of many industries, including government, military, automotive, aviation, electronics and petrochemicals.

Specifically, Techinfo Solutions will be distributing IHS document collections and subscriptions, which can be delivered in a variety of options, including custom solutions to meet the specific hardware and software needs of users, be it engineers, manufacturers, exporters and contractors. Included are such standards as ASME, ASTM, API, DIN, SAE, NFPA, and IEEE.

Moreover, these information can be presented in various formats from the Internet, CD-ROM, extranets and hardcopy. All IHS products also include advanced search features, fast retrieval, change notification, and document administration features.

For more information on IHS and Techinfo, call 888-1018 or e-mail techinfo@pacific.net.ph.

BITS Clips

Bare Necessities in 3 places

THE MOST exciting furniture event is coming. Furniture makers of top caliber are invited to join "Bare Necessities", the Philippine Furniture Festival organized by the Chamber of Furniture Industries of the Philippines (CFIP). Interested parties can call the CFIP secretariat at 631-2834, 632-9007 or 637-2742, or fax 631-2977. CFIP headquarters are located at Unit H, 9th floor Strata Building, Emerald Avenue, Pasig. "Bare Necessities" presents the widest array of collections spanning the whole gamut of design statements, from the most traditional and elegant, to the latest funky groove in avant-garde creativity. Opening on Nov. 8 at the Megamall Megatrade Halls 2, 3 and 5 and the Festival Supermall in Alabang (Carousel Court), the show breaks new ground as it opens a third venue: Robinsons Starmills in Pampanga. Exhibits run until Nov. 17.

ADMU tests new reg system

THE ATENEO de Manila University is now replacing its old lottery system for registration for the new online system. With the help of the Registrar's Office and RegCom2002, the new online enlistment system will employ a "one-stop-shop" concept, in which students grouped into 3 sub-batches will just go to one venue to sign up for everything and then pay for their tuition. Slots for each subject will be equally divided among the different venues to ensure that each batch gets equal opportunity in signing up for a class. All the computers will be wired to each other, and the information will be automatically updated at exact times. In cooperation with Hotshots Flame-Grilled Burgers and other food establishments, there will also be a food fair during registration. Second sem registration is scheduled on Nov. 4 (sophomores), 5 (freshmen and transferees), 6 (seniors and graduate students), 7 (juniors and graduate students) and 8 and 9 (free for all).

Product FILES

A dream of a bazaar

LOOKING for some interesting bargain finds? Come visit the Greenbelt Dream Bazaar located at the Upper Ground Floor of Greenbelt Shopping Plaza, between KFC and Chowking.

Office workers and home makers are in for a pleasant surprise as they are treated to many tempting deals such as footwear, RTW, home décor, entertainment sets, ladies bags, cellphones, and many more. All it takes the shoppers to complete the splendid tour is one leisurely stroll at the Dream Bazaar.

Greenbelt Dream Bazaar is open from 10 a.m. to 8 p.m.

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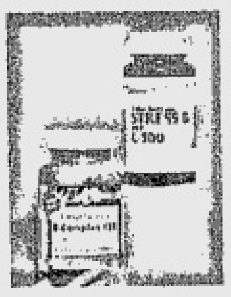

Do you feel physically and emotionally exhausted? Have you ever felt sleepy and tired despite getting five or six hours of sleep a night? DO you never seem to get anything done despite running around like a proverbial headless chicken? Are you like a ticking time bomb, getting angry and frustrated over the slightest things? Are you prone to depression, ulcers and migraines?

If you answered yes to the above questions, you are likely to be suffering from today's most popular malady: Stress. De-stress with Health Express' tips on how to control stress so it doesn't end up controlling you.

First, pinpoint what is causing the stress. Then, recognize what you can change. Stay in tune with your inner self. Get regular exercise. Love yourself, pamper yourself every now and then. Take stress tablets which contain Vitamin B complex and C. For more information, call Health Express at 892-7978 or 840-1855 or 892-9364.

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Because of its uniquely delicious taste, Moondish Laing is now making waves not only here in the country but also in Filipino communities in the United States, Hawaii, Guam, Saudi Arabia, Holland, Australia, Canada and Italy.

Available in 155g cans in leading groceries and supermarkets in GMA and selected provinces, Moondish Laing has seven delectable variants to choose from: Regular, Extra Hot, Vegetarian (Regular & Hot n Spicy), with Tuna Flakes (Regular & Hot n Spicy) and in Curry. Interested customers and distributors may call Moonbake Inc. at 801-8320 or 802-8301.

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Feel the rainforest mist at Forest Grill, and savor and explore a wide array of Mediterranean, Asian, international and Filipino cuisine. Located at 12 Jupiter Street, Bel-Air, Makati City, Forest Grill also accepts catering for all occasions (birthday, baptismal, conference and seminars). Forest Grill also boasts of its fully air-conditioned function room. Prices starts at P100 per head on Buffet Menu. Enjoy ice-cold beer for only P20 from 2 a.m. to 8 p.m. daily. Call 896-5240

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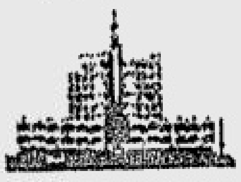

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1. 6 mm thick glass mirror manufactured by Republic Asahi, Inc.
2. 12 mm plywood backing with coal ta'paint and aluminum J-clip

Interested bidders must submit not later than **November 18, 2002** photocopies of documents listed below (original copies of items 1 and 2 to be presented for authentication purposes) to the Manager II, Procurement Division II, Administrative Services Department, Room 213, 2nd Floor, 5-Storey building. BSP Complex, Malate, Manila, Tel. Nos. 5252493/5248229:

1) Articles of Incorporation and Business Registration Papers;
2) Year 2001 duly Audited Financial Statements (Income Statement and Balance Sheet with a networth of at least P500,000.00 & working capital of P250,000.00);
3) Business Licenses/Permit;
4) Year 2001 Income Tax Return; and
5) Company History/Profile/e-mail address.

Only those who comply with the above requirements will be invited to participate in the actual bidding which will be conducted on a later date to be advised. Bidding documents may be obtained upon payment of a non-refundable fee of P500.00.

The two envelope system shall be adopted in the bidding.

The BSP hereby reserves the right to reject any or all bids, as well as to waive any defects or informality in such bids, and to accept such bids as may be considered most advantageous to the Bank.

For the Disbursement Control Committee:

(Sgd.) EDUARDO L. MAGAHIS
Director
Administrative Services-Department

(PDI - Nov. 5, 2002)

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2% w/o Taking Car 8870490/95

2% w/o Taking Car 7228942/43

2% w/o Taking Car 8966633

2% w/oTaking Car 3732081-82

2% w/oTaking Car 7221021

2% w/oTaking Car 3646928

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WANTED TO BUY

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BUYING ROLEX
others, High Price CASH 09178142309/7269687/4123543

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ROLEX
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5633742 0917-8473744

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DOCTORS
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F-ESCORT 0917-9593176

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URGENT OFC Staff/Personnel 18/45 w/w/o exp Start asap Direct Hire 4752637 DENNIS

DEP-ED LAS PINAS NEEDS APPLICANT FOR SEC PRINCIPAL I, DISB. OFFICER II, CLERK II. QUALIFICATIONS: DEGREE HOLDER, ELGIBLE

★OFC/ADMIN STAF 18-45y/o★ w/ w/o Exp 9121488 Mr. Diaz

HRD STF 09194639391 ECHO

Laundry Staff M/F w/ w/o exp 8470398 / 8447839

OFC STAF 09192535623 GLENDA

Ofc Staff 18-45 start asap! w /w/o exp 7419136 Ms. TJ

OFC STF 09168337825 JERIC

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Bataan Economic Zone
Mariveles, Bataan
Tel. Nos. (047)935-4004; (047)561-2451; (047)935-5002
Fax Nos. (047)935-6046; E-mail: bez@unet.net.ph

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Philippine Economic Zone Authority (PEZA) invites interested parties to apply for eligibility and to bid for security services for the Bataan Economic Zone (BEZ), Mariveles, Bataan. The approved budget for a one (1) year contract is Php 5,889,576.00.

Security agencies with existing contract for security services with economic zone enterprises operating at the Bataan Economic Zone shall not be allowed to participate in the bidding.

The list of eligibility requirements may be secured from the Secretariat of the BEZ Bids and Awards Committee (BAC), 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Bldg., Bataan Economic Zone,Mariveles, Bataan from **November 4 to 7, 2002** upon presentation of a Letter of Intent and payment of a non-refundable fee of Php 200.00.

Eligibility requirements shall be submitted to BAC Secretariat not later than 5:00 P.M. of November 12, 2002. Bidding/tender documents will be issued to eligible bidders from **November 21 to 22, 2002** upon payment of a non-refundable amount of Php 2,000.00.

A pre-bid conference will be conducted on **November 26, 2002,** 2:00 P.M., at the Audio Visual Room, 2nd Floor, BEZ Administration Bldg., BEZ, Mariveles, Bataan. The submission of bids shall be not later than 2:00 P.M. of **December 6, 2002** at the same venue. The bids shall be opened immediately thereafter.

The PEZA reserves the right to reject any and all bids, waive any defect or informality therein and to award the contract to any bidder whose proposal is deemed most advantageous to the government. The PEZA neither assumes any obligation for any loss whatsoever that may be incurred by the bidders in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made. The provisions of Executive Order No. 40 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations shall apply to this bidding.

(Sgd.) DANTE M. QUINDOZA
Zone Administrator

(PDI-Oct. 27 & Nov. 5, 2002)

National Power Corporation
Diliman, Quezon City

INVITATION TO BID

SPUG-MMSS-02-

Interested suppliers/contractors are invited to submit sealed bid for the re-bidding of the One (1) Year Supply of the **Manpower Services (Professional, Skilled, Semi-Skilled & Clerical Support)** to be opened publicly at the NPC, SPUG, 2nd Flr. Training Center Bldg., Cor. Agham & BIR Rd., Diliman, Quezon City on the date and time stated below.

Bidding documents will be available to qualified interested parties starting **November 4, 2002** upon payment of **P 1,000.00 per bidding document,** which is non-refundable and upon presentation of company I.D., and company authorization. Issuance and receipts of documents are done on the addresses listed below.

OFFICE	ADDRESS	TIME
SPUG-HO	2nd Flr. Training Ctr. Bldg., BIR Rd. Cor. Quezon Ave., Q.C.	8:00-11:30
SPUG-Visayas	Martinez Bldg., Osmeña Blvd., Cebu City	9:00 - 3:00
SPUG-Mindanao	Camia St., Juna Subdivision, Davao City	9:00 - 3:00

Deadline of Bids Submission & Opening: SPUG-HO, Quezon City

Submission and Opening of Bids Technical & Price		
Date	Time	Description
November 18, 2002	2:00 p.m.	Manpower Services

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids and waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

BIDS & AWARDS COMMITTEEE
NPC-SPUG

(PDI--Nov. 5, 2002)

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897-8425 (Telefax)

CUBAO:
912-9008 to 11 (Aurora)

MAKATI:
892-5578; 811-4361;
811-4370

KALAW:
528-0213; 527-3342

MEGAMALL:
635-0219; 635-0220

THE HERITAGE PARK
FORT BONIFACIO
more than just a memorial park
Bayani Road, Fort Bonifacio, Taguig, Metro Manila, 1632
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OBITUARIES

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ATTY. VICTORIANO "VIC" M. DAVID

of Angeles City and Bacolor, Pampanga passed away in the Grace of our Lord on November 3, 2002 at the age of 84.

His body lies in state at the Funeraria Pangilinan, Chapel A, Sto. Entierro St., Angeles City. Interment will be on Saturday, November 9, 2002 at the Holy Mary Memorial Park, Angeles City.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

ARLINGTON MEMORIAL CHAPEL
12 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tels 715-1025, 715-1031; 715-1027
ARLINGTON EAST THE GARDEN CHAPELS
C. Raymundo St. cor. Mercedes Ave., San Miguel Ave., Pasig City
Tels. 747-8599, 747-8609 • Telefax 641-1760
AUREA QUIOGUE FUNERAL HOMES
243 A.B. Fernandez Ave., Dagupan City, Pangasinan
Tels. (0785) 522-3451, 522-2128, (0917) 434-9976
CAPITOL MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
1305 G. Araneta Avenue, Quezon City. Tel. 732-0309; 732-1095
CEBU ROLLING HILLS MEMORIAL CHAPELS INC.
Cebu Branch: A.S. Fortuna Street, Banilad, Mandaue City, Cebu;
Tels. 346-2543; 346-2601
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Nivel Hills, Lahug, Cebu City. Tels. 231-0721, 231-3192
COSMOPOLITAN FUNERAL HOMES, INC.
Camus Ext. cor. J. Abad Santos, Davao City. Tels. (082) 227-1201, 227-1258
DAYAO FUNERAL HOME
#2 Bayani St., Galas, Quezon City. Tels. 740-2683;
781-3705; 781-3688, 413-9400, 715-5594
DALLUAY MEMORIAL SERVICES
#42 Upper Kalaklan, Olongapo City
Tels. (047) 222-3605, (047) 811-1086; (047) 222-4512; (047) 224-2014
DON BOSCO CHAPELS
Pasay Road, Makati City. Tel. 894-5932 to 34
DULCE MEMORIAL SERVICES
Jose Abad Santos Ave. cor. Dinalupihan St., Moriones, Manila
Tels. 712-5102, 741-5125, 741-5133; Fax No. 711-3064
FLORESCO FUNERAL HOME
219 Gen. Luna St., Concepcion, Malabon, Metro Manila;
Tels. 2812963, 2813034, 2810522
FUNERARIA PANGILINAN
Santo Entierro cor. P. Burgos St., Lourdes Sur, Angeles City
Tels. (045) 888-2959 ; (045) 322-5247
PAKET SANTIAGO MEMORIAL HOMES
13 V. Gomez St., San Roque, Marikina City. Tels. 646-1725, 646-1730
FUNERARIA ANGEL QUIOGUE
No. 67 Pasig Boulevard Extension, Pasig City. Tels. 641-7909; 641-1735
M. Almeda St., Pateros Metro Manila: Tels. 642-3010; 633-3602
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
187 Real St., Zapote Alabang, Las Piñas. Tels. 873-0507; 873-0024
FUNERARIA FILIPINAS
665 J.P. Rizal St., Poblacion, Makati City. Tels. 890-3558; 899-8191
FUNERARIA TUASON
Poblacion, San Miguel, Bulacan 3011;
Tels. (044) 764-0201, 678-0206 (0917) 895-0603
FUNERARIA SAMSON
145 Bayan Luma, Imus, Cavite. Tels. (046) 471-3375; 471-2675
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Tels. 711-6931 to 35, 732-4795, 732-2827
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
143 G. Araneta Ave. cor. Kaliraya St., Quezon City
Tels. 749-3806 to 11; 712-3001; 743-6502 or 05
LA FUNERARIA PAZ, INC.
Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque: Tels. 820-1592, 825-8947; 825-8835
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79 Naguilian Rd., Baguio City. Tel. (074) 443-3337, (074) 442-3117
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G. Tirona St., Imus, Cavite: Tels. (046) 471-3388;
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EDSA cor. Bernardino St., Guadalupe, Makati City; Tels. 895-1011 to 19
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Marcos Hiway, Antipolo, Rizal. Tels. 645-1855, 682-0209, 682-0210
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214 Rizal Ave., Sta. Cruz, Manila. Tel. Nos. 254-0857, 254-0839
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ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
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16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila;
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Tels. 831-3797, 844-7846, 843-1601; 845-4836
WELINGTON FUNERAL SERVICES
1611 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila; Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438; 400-5394

In Loving Remembrance
on the Sixth Death Anniversary of

DIONISIO L. FALGUI, JR.

of Tabuk, Kalinga
who died on November 5, 1996

Mass will be offered today at 6:30 a.m.
at St. Joseph Parish Tabuk, Kalinga

His loving family, wife **Amor Palacio**; children **William Dio** and **Brenda Omengan**, **Dionisio III** and **Loretto Gonzales**, **Richard Dio** and **Liezl Juruena**, **Maria Diana** and **Thom John Dalsen**; grandchildren **Denise**, **Diowi**, **Morel**, **Lexi**, **Dio IV**, **Diolo** and **Amorrine**; sisters, in-laws, relatives and friends request the pious readers to remember Fiscal Falgui in their prayers.

The Board of Trustees, Alumni,
Faculty Members, and Students of
LICEO DE SAN JACINTO
San Jacinto, Masbate
condole with the bereaved family of

ANA LETADA MOYA

Founder, Former Trustee and Treasurer

who peacefully joined her Creator
on 29 October 2002 at the age of 94.

Her remains lie in state at the Moya ancestral house
along Letada St., San Jacinto, Masbate.

Interment will be at the San Jacinto Public Cemetery on Wednesday, 6 November 2002, after the necrological services (12:00 nn) and Holy Mass (2:00 p.m.).

In Memoriam

BENJAMIN "MANG BEN" LEUNG, Sr.

(September 19, 1927 - November 5, 2000)

is lovingly remembered by his family on the
2nd Anniversary of his Death

Prayers will be offered for him during the celebration of the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass at the Santa Cruz Church and N.P. Jesus Nazareno de Quiapo in Manila, Santo Domingo Church and Lourdes Church in Q.C. at 8:00 a.m. today, November 5, 2002.

Prayers are requested for the eternal repose of his soul.

ANGELINA PANES BALQUIN CENTENO

peacefully joined our Lord on October 30, 2002
at the age of 92

Her loving children and grandchildren, relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Loyola Memorial Chapel, Guadalupe, Makati City. Interment will be on Thursday, November 7, 2002, 12:00 noon at the Heritage Memorial Park, Fort Bonifacio, Makati City.

JANICE WILLIAMS PALENZUELA

BELOVED WIFE OF

LINO CAMÓN PALENZUELA

Died in the Peace of Our Lord, on October 23, 2002
after receiving the Apostolic Blessing and the Holy Sacraments
of the Roman Catholic Church, in Virginia, U.S.A.

Her bereaved brothers, sisters and in-laws:

Sue Lohn & Willis Gore
Mary Ann & Fred Wilson
Federico E. (†) & Ofelia P. Barrera
Luis M. & Nydia P. Santisteban
Enrique & Amparo del Rosario
Walter & Rosemary Williams
Larry Williams
Sarkies V. & Delia P. Carapiet
Herman B. & Diana P. Plautz
Humberto (†) & Rosario Locsin (†)

nephews, nieces, grandnephews, grandnieces, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

A REQUIEM MASS will be offered on Friday, November 8, 2002, at 9:00 a.m. in St. Alphonsus Mary de Liguori Parish Church, Humabon Street, Magallanes Village, Makati City.

(lpalenzuela@msn.com, Tel. No. (703) 455-8239, 9:00-1:00 PM Manila Time)

JOAQUINA (QUINANG) G. TORRES

of Malabon City

Has joined her Creator and peacefully rests in the company of her husband **"Moring"** on November 3, 2002 at the age of 85.

Her loving children **Virgilio**, Engr. **Rodolfo**, **Mario Jr.**, Councilor **Edilberto**, Engr. **Manuel**, **Nelia**, Engr. **Armando**, **Erlinda**, **Renato**; children-in-law **Epsie**, **Alice**, **Flery**, **Dory**, **Cynthia**, **Jun** & grandchildren, request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at Floresco Funeral Home,
Gen. Luna St., Malabon City.

Interment will be on **Saturday, November 9, 2002**
at the Ever Memorial Garden, Lawang Bato, Valenzuela City
after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Immaculate Conception Parish Church.

ATTY. CANDIDO R. SAMONTE, SR., CPA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord
on November 1, 2002 at the age of 87.

His children **MARIA LUISA** (†), **NARCISA**, **CRESENCIA**, **CANDIDO, JR.**; grandchildren **CLARICE JOYCE**, **MARIO LUIS & KIRBY DOENEL**; relatives and friends request prayers for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at the family residence, 255 Marseilla St., Rosario, Cavite. Interment will be at Rosario Cemetery on Wednesday, November 6, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at Rosario Catholic Church.

> **"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."**
> Matthew 10:39

INQUIRER TRIVIA
By BONG BARRAMEDA

Bright light

Q. How did the *klieg light* get its name?

A. After German-born brothers John and Anton Kliegl, who migrated to the United States in 1897 and pioneered the development of lighting equipment and scenic effects for the stage and early Hollywood motion pictures. The bright incandescent light they invented was first called the *Kliegl light*, which proved too difficult to pronounce and in time shortened to just *klieg light*.

Not-So-Famous First. On October 30, 1925 a 15-year-old office boy named William Taynton became the first person to be captured on television when Scottish inventor John Logie Baird transmitted the world's first light-and-shade TV images in his workshop in London. With a crude contraption pieced together with cardboard, darning needles, used electric motors, piano wire, glue, string, wax and lenses. Baird first tuned in the silhouette of a dummy's head. Anxious to capture a live performer, he rushed downstairs and returned with Taynton. Frightened by the bright lights, the lad would sit still before the transmitter only if Baird promised a few shillings for his patience.

Classified Odd. Michael Springer of London is in the habit of being in the right place at the right time. In 1980 and 1989 he gave first aid to victims of a shooting. In 1993 he saved the life of a man who was stabbed. Last summer, he walked in a street where he spotted a 17-month-old baby sitting in the window ledge on the fourth story of a building. The inevitable happened. The toddler fell and who else but Michael was there to catch the child.

WORD WATCH

Tiyempo: from the Spanish *tiempo*, 'time'

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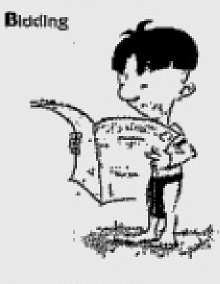
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding



in **Luzon**

Bakit lalayo'ka pa? Sa INQUIRER, convenient na sulit pa!

[illegible]

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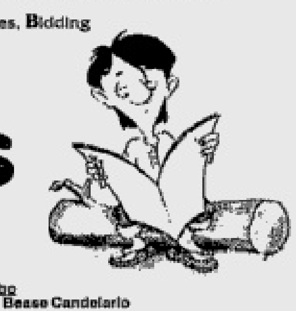
We accept Classified advertisements
Lines, Recruitment, Obituaries, Bidding



in **Visayas**

Diri na ta sa INQUIRER bay! Sayon na sulit pa!

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16-15 Escario Street, Cebu City
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Dumaguete City
Mr. Raymund Mercado
Hi-Top News Magazine & General Merchandise
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-5799/225-4364
Mr. Ramon Charles Sy
New Renie's
Dr. V. Locsin Street, Dumaguete City
Tel. Nos. (035) 225-4320/422-7462
Fax No. (035) 255-1162
Iloilo
Mr. Eduardo Ty
c/o Ms. Marilou Ty
Eddie-Mar News & Magazine Center
Ground Floor, Bombo Radio Building
Mapa Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 337-3120/337-6018
Mr. Jim Feliciano
308 Ledesma Street, Iloilo City
Tel. No. (033) 336-9932
Cell. No. (0917) 401-9180

Kalibo
Dra. Besse Candelario
Candelario Enterprise
RB Newspapers, Magazine & Song Hits Distribution Agency
Pastrana Street, Kalibo, Aklan
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Roxas City
Ms. Marieta Santos
M. Santos Komiks Magazines & Newspaper Dealer
Door C, MB Building
Fuentes Drive, Roxas City
Tel. Nos. (036) 621-5586/522-6925
Tacloban City
Mr. Neil Montejo
Montejo's Newspaper Supply
246 Avenida Veteranos
Tacloban City
Tel. Nos. (053) 325-6743/321-2954
Tagbilaran City
Mr. Ferdinand Mercado
Doña Rosario Village
G. Penaflor Street
Tagbilaran City
Tel. No. (038) 411-5007

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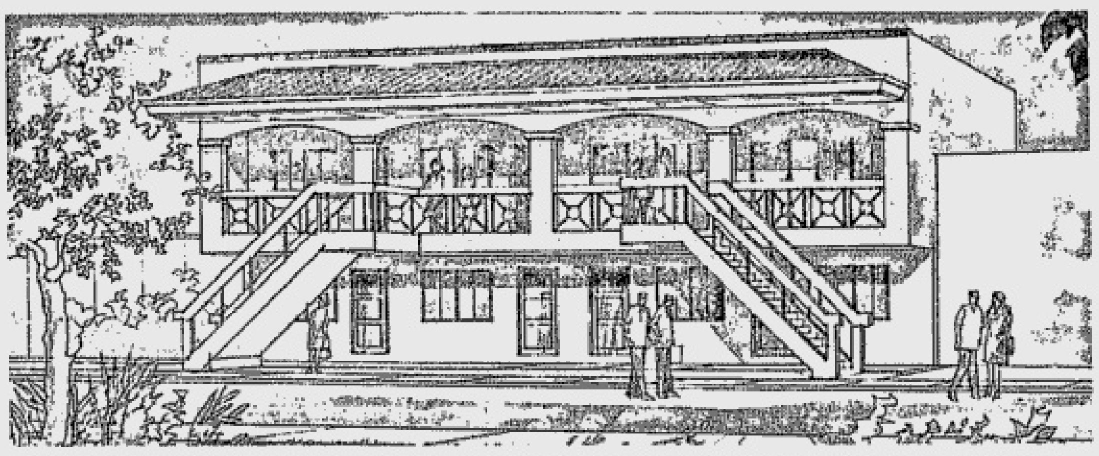
REAL ESTATE

Editor Cesar D. Mangawang

8-door apartments can help bring Manila 'back to life'



A SPANISH-STYLE eight-door apartment, at 22 sq. m each, created by architects of Fortune Star Construction and Development Corp., adds to the historical "character" of Manila.

By Tessa R. Salazar

OWNERS of old residential houses in the cities, particularly in Manila, can transform their aging houses into eight-door units that could help generate income and help the working class and its families move from the slums and live in more decent apartments at affordable rental fees.

But converting an old house into a spanking new apartment is easier said than done. How to go about it? Let the government help.

Low-cost, long-term apartment development funds from the government, with affordable interest rates, can encourage owners of old units in the metropolis to make the renovation.

Typical construction

The Chamber of Real Estate and Builders Associations (Creba) Social Housing Foundation suggested that a typical construction of two-story apartments containing eight units (at 22 square meters each) could cost P1.5 million at the most. A 10-percent per annum interest spread over 25 years is affordable for the owner.

Said Demetrio L. Posadas, president of Creba Social Housing Foundation: "This would mean P13,000 to P14,000 monthly amortization rates. The owner can start charging P2,500 to P3,000 rental fee per month, which would be very cheap since a typical flat in Manila could now cost P4,000 to P5,000 per month."

Affordable rental fee

Posadas computed that a P2,500 to P3,000 rental fee per unit per month would be affordable for working families, and at the same time would generate P21,000 to P24,000 per month for the house owners of the 8-door apartment (the last door could be reserved for the owners). "Subtract the monthly amortization rate of P13,000 to P14,000 a month and the owners still get P8,000 to P10,000 a month (for themselves)."

This setup is ideal for old couples living by themselves, and who own at least a 150-sq.-m house and lot in Manila, a city now considered "in decay" because its residential houses are at such an advanced age and ready for demolition.

City landowners are afraid to borrow money and renovate because of high interest rates, even if they knew their property had high income potential as an apartment.

This is where the government should lend a hand, Posadas urged. And who said esthetics should suffer for budgeted apartment constructions? Posadas said since Manila had a Spanish heritage, Spanish-style apartments could be constructed to suit the city's character.

The local government could also set specific guidelines to preserve the historical character of Manila. "In effect, you would help renew the character of Manila and provide working people a decent place of stay near their work," said Posadas.

Improving transport

The Creba Social Housing Foundation said that extending and improving transportation such as the railway transit to the south and to the north could also help many communities in the country connect with each other and make the working class maintain their homes in the countryside without necessarily having to live in crowded urban areas.

Improved railway transport would mean residents from as far north as Pampanga or, to as far south as Quezon, be home in a few hours from their work in Metro Manila.

"Metro Manila can only hold so much population, otherwise it will explode," warned Posadas.

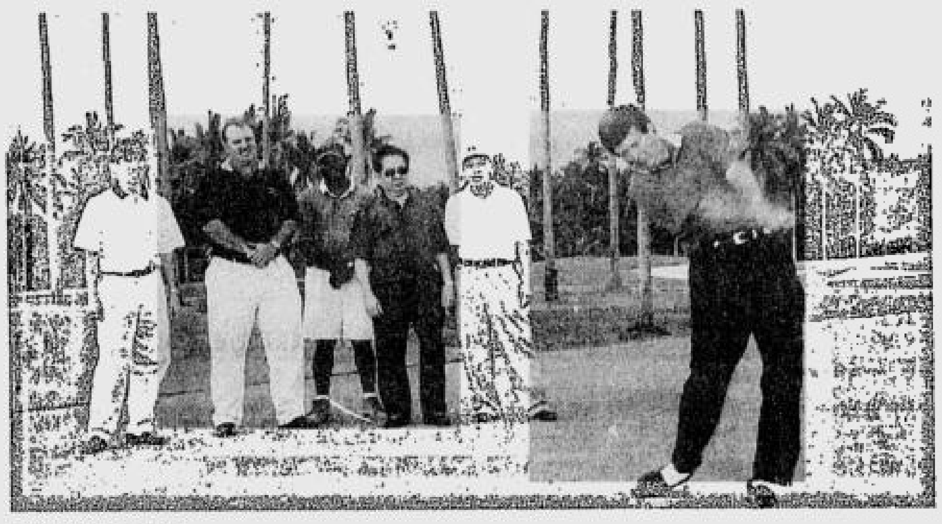
The population of slum communities in Metro Manila has reached 3 million. Developers' proposals of building multiple five-story residential buildings (of 29 units each) for rent in highly urbanized areas could just add to the problems in water supply, sanitation, and peace and order, assessed Posadas.

The towns in the Philippines have no long term plan, Posadas noted. In one town, developers can be seen contesting places for construction instead of them preparing integrated developments.

Posadas said local government executives should step in and put developments in order. A local executive of a town doesn't have to spend for road networks. All he or she has to do is prepare a total development plan, which subdivision developers would follow, and construct a road network interconnecting the subdivisions to each other. Posadas said subdivisions now have been creating barriers to each other because most towns have no development vision and direction.

Another solution to urban congestion is the integration of the transport system in Metro Manila and provinces into its immediate environment.

Posadas said developers also wish the country would have leaders with a sense of continuity—that is, continuing the positive programs of past leaderships while infusing their own vision and direction.



TEEING OFF

Bruce Charlton, senior vice president of Robert Trent Jones Jr Design group, tees off in hole 14 of Summit Point Golf & Country Club. Joining him are Mike Khaler (head of RTJ's Asian operations), Mike Poobalan (golf shaper), former BOI (Bureau of Investments) Governor Conrad Leviste, lawyer Rodolfo de Leon and Lauro Leviste II (Summit Point Realty and Development Corp. executives). Summit Point Golf & Country Club is a Sta. Lucia Realty & Development Inc. joint-venture project in Lipa City, Batangas, that is the most ambitious yet for the premiere golfing destination developer as it features the "World 18" concept—a sampling of the 18 most popular golf holes from all over the world in one playing field.

Moldex serves housing needs north, south of Metro Manila

EVEN in a slow and uncertain economy, conscientious private developers continue to find ways of addressing the Philippines' housing needs. Considered as partners of the government in its housing program, they are counted upon to explore all possibilities to meet the prevailing needs in any, or all, of the five housing categories. These are open-market houses, socialized or low-cost housing, economic housing, open-market condominium and simple subdivision.

Moldex Realty Inc. and Moldex Land Inc. are two developers under the Moldex Group of Companies serving the housing needs of Filipino households north and south of Metro Manila.

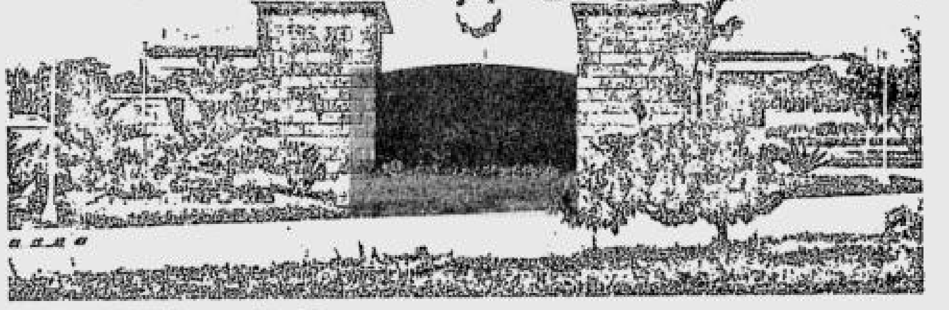
Working hand in hand with MRI and MLI toward this end is their exclusive marketing arm, Moldex Realty Marketing Inc. Their common vision is to develop and market residential projects that suit the needs and aspirations of home buyers and investors, matching and even surpassing the value of their investment. Construction quality, convenient location, fine neighborhood, accessibility and lifestyle-enhancing amenities are primary considerations.

Master-planned projects

MRI offers master-planned yet affordable residential projects particularly for the economic and open market segments. The economic group is composed mostly of families of employees of the Armed Forces of the Philippines and the Philippine National Police, teachers and government employees. Its mid-market segment, on the other hand, consists of executives, professionals and businessmen.

MRI's high-end residential projects within Metro Manila are designed for entrepreneurs, investors and retirees who want to live in well-designed neighborhoods with ample provisions for privacy, security and leisurely lifestyles.

Clubhouses, sports facilities, parks and playgrounds, landscaped areas, elevated concrete water tank with pumping station, centralized water distribution system, full perimeter fencing, underground drainage system, street lighting and Meralco electrical lines are the common features of Moldex's residential projects.



METROGATE Dasmariñas Estates

Metrogate series

South of Metro Manila, the company has its Metrogate series, namely: Metrogate Dasmariñas (54 hectares subdivided into 120-sq.-m residential lots) and Metrogate Dasmariñas Estates (25.4 hectares with an average lot area of 150 square meters), both in Dasmariñas, Cavite; Metrogate Sta. Rosa (14 hectares of a fine residential enclave); and Metrogate Trece Martires (66.9 hectares of lush greenery and rolling terrain.

Also included are Metrogate Indang (27 hectares with an average lot area of 90 sq. m); Metrogate Silang Estates (250 hectares subdivided into residential lots with an average area of 150-300 sq. m); and the 19-hectare Metrogate Tagaytay Estates in Tagaytay City. Also in the south are Villa Caceres Sta. Rosa in Sta. Rosa, Laguna; Tagaytay Southridge Villas, Tagaytay Southridge Estates, and Heritage Homes Trece Martires.

Moldex's north projects are the Metrogate Angeles, a 85-hectare first-class subdivision in Angeles City; Metroview Ridge Estates in hilly and scenic Antipolo City; Metrogate Meycauayan II and Heritage Homes Meycauayan in Meycauayan, Bulacan; Metrogate San Jose situated at the corner of Sta. Maria Road and Norzagaray Road in San Jose Del Monte, Bulacan; Metrogate Complex located on the North Diversion Road also in Meycauayan, Bulacan; Metrovilla Center in Valenzuela City; and Metrogate Villas, a collection of two-story single-detached homes of contemporary European style, located on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City.

Other projects

The Paradise Memorial Gardens, a memorial park in a preserved area in Manaoag, Pangasinan, is also a Moldex project. A first-class development, it is noted for lush foliage, verdant hills and greenery.

Another signature project is 1322 Roxas Boulevard, which promises to be a most important and prestigious residential address in Manila. It is a residential condominium with a hotel-like grand lobby, well-designed suites, state-of-the-art facilities, up-to-the-minute security system and landscaped gardens, as well as a good view of the world-famous sunset at Manila Bay.

These projects are marketed by MRI's well-organized networks of brokers and sales personnel who are well trained in the service of clients. MRMI president Editha L. Manansala says that Moldex's marketing programs are designed around two primary considerations—customer needs and satisfaction—and the attainment of the company's entrepreneurial goals.

MRMI's offices are located at the corner of Leveriza Street and Sen. Gil J. Puyat Avenue.

Town by the bay rises on Roxas Boulevard

By Jun Alano
Contributor

THE PHILIPPINE Exhibits and Themeparks Corp. (Petco), organizer of some of the country's finest exhibits and entertainment events, embarks on a key project to redevelop a vast property on Roxas Boulevard into a major trade and amusement town.

To be called Pueblo Marina, the site is the 11.5-hectare property at the corner of Roxas Boulevard and Gil Puyat Avenue which has been the spot for Boom na Boom Carnival.

Haydee M. Kwan, Petco vice president, said Pueblo Marina will have four major components—the Boomland, Market Square, Comida Rotunda and Portwalk—virtually making the place aptly called a "town by the bay."

Apart from providing an entirely new environment for fun and relaxation for individuals and groups, Kwan said Pueblo Marina also offers various business opportunities for small to large-scale entrepreneurs.

Construction for the first phase, composed of Boomland and Market Place, is ongoing and is expected to be completed in time for the Christmas season.

Boomland carries on the legacy of fun and excitement that Boom na Boom Carnival brings every Christmas with its imported kiddie and adult rides, special attractions, arcade games, souvenir booths, food carts and stage plaza; while the Market Square is an open-air cluster of trade booths that sell merchandise at rock-bottom prices.

Second phase of Pueblo Marina will be composed of Portwalk that will feature specialty shops, and Comida Rotunda, the main plaza complex where you will find cafés and restaurants and a stage where concerts and entertainment events will be held.

Other facilities that will be available at Pueblo Marina include a three-hectare guarded parking area that can accommodate up to 2,000 vehicles, a visitor and car paging area, information center, telephone facilities, comfort rooms and first aid facilities.

Condo management seminar set

A COMPREHENSIVE professional development seminar on "Condominium Management" will be presented by the Philippine Association of Building Administrators Inc. (Paba) jointly with the Condominium Management Association of the Philippines Inc. scheduled on Nov. 21 and 22 at 6-9 p.m. at the AIM Conference Center, Legaspi Village, Makati City.

The seminar is in cooperation with the Philippine Institute of Building Management Foundation Inc.

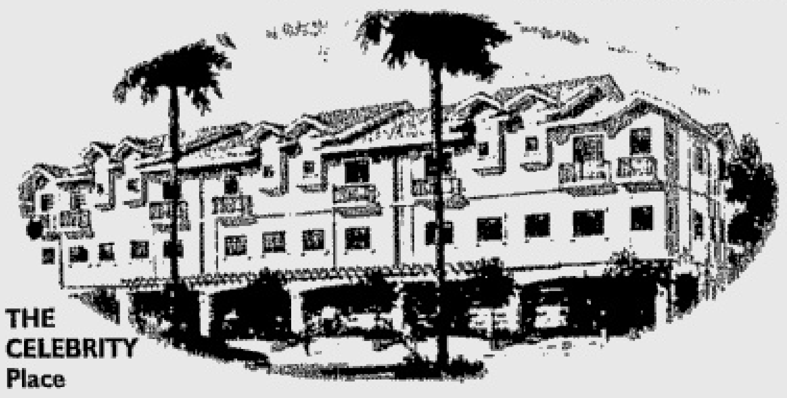
Val S. Abeng, Paba and CMAP president, said the seminar will provide the much-needed comprehensive background for the professional management and administration of commercial, office and residential condominium development projects.

The seminar will be presented by facilitators of the country's practitioners who are highly recognized, qualified and experienced in condominium management.

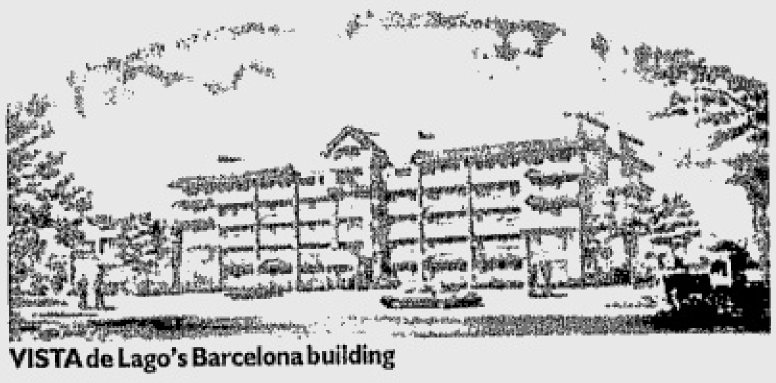
For inquiries, interested parties may call up the Paba/CMAP secretariat at 819-2656 and 892-6037 or fax at 893-0155.

CONTRACT SIGNING

Construction of The Manansala, Rockwell Center's latest residential project, is well on the way. Rockwell recently awarded construction of the substructure of the twin towers to Sumitomo Construction of Japan, already on-site, at the Burgundy Room of the Meralco Compound. Seated from left are Rockwell Land project manager to The Manansala, Bong Filart; Rockwell Land VP for business development Jay Lopez; Rockwell Land president Nestor Padilla; Rockwell Land chair Manolo M. Lopez; and representatives of Sumitomo Construction, Mitsukazu Nakata, Iai Hiroaki and Takashige Ogasawara. Standing from left are Salvador Castro of SP Castro & Associates; Peter Hackman of Davis, Langdon and Seah (DSL); Rockwell Land VP for design Nestor Igancio; and Baby Esquivel of Sumitomo Construction.



THE CELEBRITY Place



VISTA de Lago's Barcelona building

Value-for-money residences to watch out for in metro

By Charles E. Buban

COMBINE living room comforts to the dining area

BUYING a home is a rewarding experience if you know what you want and what you can afford. For starter, consider everything you want in a new home: location, size, type of home site and specific features like a separate dining room or garage.

Decide about the importance of community amenities such as a pool or playing courts, proximity to public transportation or commuter routes, the schools and shopping areas.

Then determine what your top priorities are, so you can be prepared to make some tradeoffs when deciding which home to purchase.

Right now, there are two attractive choices to consider: one is The Celebrity Place located in Diliman, Quezon City and the other is Vista de Lago on Bagong Kalsada road in Taguig.

Value-added features

When One Asia Development Corp. conceptualized The Celebrity Place, the developer thought of adding a unique package to their clients: that of providing access to one of the country's leading leisure and recreation centers located adjacent to the property.

Buyers of the The Celebrity Place becomes an automatic member of the Celebrity Sports Club and have all the access to all of the club's facilities including an Olympic-size swimming pool, bowling lanes, tennis and badminton courts as well as spa and jacuzzi.

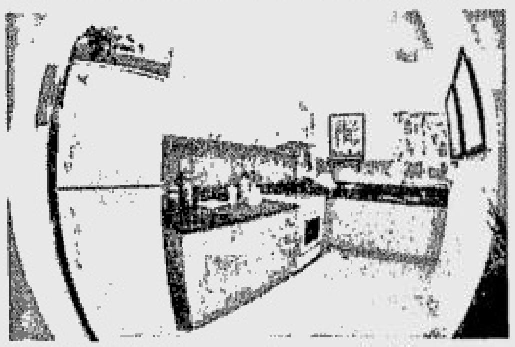
"Value-added marketing has indeed made its way in the property sector as this unique privilege will form part of the project package," explained Vic Manarang, One Asia president and CEO.

P1.2 billion townhouse

The Celebrity Place condominium villa will offer some 140 units integrated within the P1.2 billion townhouse development.

It primarily caters to the young urban professionals and start-up families who are sporty and health-conscious.

Celebrity Place condominium offers studio-type, single, double or three-bedroom units with gross floor areas ranging from 31 to 104 square meters. All units come with individual parking space. Garden areas of 35 to 45 sq. m are also allotted for the one- and two-bedroom units.



THE KITCHEN has ample space to allow buyers to set their own design.

The smallest studio unit is priced below P2 million.

There are also three-level units that vary in total floor area depending on what market it caters to: the cozy Audrey model suits the taste of upwardly mobile professionals, while the classic Bette model is more recommended for young families. The spacious Catherine model, which has a total floor area of 211 sq. m, is ideal for growing families.

Affordable payment scheme

The condo project offers buyers an attractive payment scheme for as low as P10,000 monthly amortization.

The initial phase, which will be available for occupancy by year-end, will consist of 21 townhouses in four clusters. Each unit, which sells at P6 million to P10 million, targets the upscale residential buyers.

As of end-September, some 85 percent of the townhouse units for Phase 1 have already been sold. All in all, there will be a total of 142 condo and 62 townhouses for the project.

Perched within a two-hectare property owned by the Riviera Land Corp., The Celebrity Place is the maiden project of One Asia.

An attractive alternative

Community living arrangements can be an attractive alternative to traditional single-family dwellings. Since condos are usually less expensive than single-family homes, first-time homebuyers often find them an easier way to take advantage of the benefits of home ownership.

Many condos have come to resemble five-star resorts, with clubhouse, pools, basketball court (which can be converted to volleyball court), and a playground amid a well landscaped courtyard.

Besides, shared ownership can also help build a sense of pride and community spirit.

Vista de Lago will offer exactly all these as its developer, DMCI Homes, initiated the groundbreaking of its latest project located in Taguig.

Taguig Mayor Fred Tinga led the ribbon-cutting and ground-breaking ceremonies together with Isidro Consunji, DMCI Homes president.

5-story project

Vista de Lago features 5-story condominium projects with six to eight units per wing on each floor for optimum privacy, ventilation and lighting.

Unit sizes range from 48 sq. m to 114 sq. m. Other conveniences include individual drying areas at the roofdeck, overhead water tank, underground cabling and a 24-hour security.

"DMCI Homes offers a new perspective in urban lifestyle. Vista de Lago is one of the many projects we have at the moment that features small, self-contained communities—no more than 400 units per project—in approximately one to three hectares of land, with easy access to urban centers, at almost half the price of other developers," said Consunji.

Other DMCI Homes projects include Hampstead Gardens in Sta. Mesa, East Ortigas Mansions in Pasig City, Bella Villa in Parañaque City, Lakeview Manors and Morning Sun Townhomes, both also in Taguig.

DMCI Consunji boasts an impressive track record in building some of the country's notable landmarks including the Cultural Center of the Philippines, SM Megamall, Shangri-La Hotel Manila, Ayala Tower One, Rockwell Center, UP Chapel of the Holy Sacrifice and Citibank Tower.

Forum on sustainable planning set Nov. 19

AS PART of the commitment to raise the level of awareness for better architectural design practices in the Philippines,

Prof. Mike Jenks, director of the Oxford Center for Sustainable Development from the Oxford Brookes University, will deliver a speech at the forum on "Sustainable Planning and Green Architecture for Emerging Cities."

Jenks will present the latest research on urban form and new trends undertaken by the OCSD The forum aims to promote sustainable development providing information through research and consultancy, and to enable new sustainability ideas to become a reality in the Philippines.

"Sustainable Urban Design and Architectures," Jenks's lecture, will explain how built forms affect the way people live in cities as well as the altering functionality of the city's economic life. Urban form, mix of uses and building types can have a significant impact on sustainability.

Other speakers will be architects Estanislao G. Fernandez, senior designer of Francisco Mañosa and Associates, and Jose F. Ignacio, secretary for the subcommittee on Asean Energy Efficiency and Conservation Best Practices Competition in Buildings.

Fernandez will focus on green consciousness and as integration in tropical architecture courses. His speech, "Architecture Climate and Energy: Integrating Environment Consciousness in the Classroom," will feature students' projects as an example of the new applications and teaching methods.

Ignacio will discuss Energy Efficiency for Asia—Best Practices Competition Winners." Local entries submitted by the Department of Energy of the Philippines will be featured to promote sustainable and cost-effective operations for the construction and maintenance of commercial buildings.

The forum—a joint effort of the United Architects of the Philippines–Marikina Valley Chapter, the College of Architecture of the University of the Philippines, the British Council and Boysen Paints—will take place on Nov. 19 at 4 p.m. in the Tai Woo Restaurant in Greenhills.

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New hotel up in Iloilo

DOMESTIC and international tourists can soon savor the indigenous warmth and hospitality of the Western Visayas region as the Iloilo Waterfront and Yacht Club graces the Iloilo skyline and coastal areas here.

A subsidiary of the Mateo Group of Companies and backed up by the MMG International Management Group Inc. and Ecorp Investment Corp.; the P1-billion leisure center is expected to provide investors, businessmen, domestic and international tourists with world-class amenities in this part of the country.

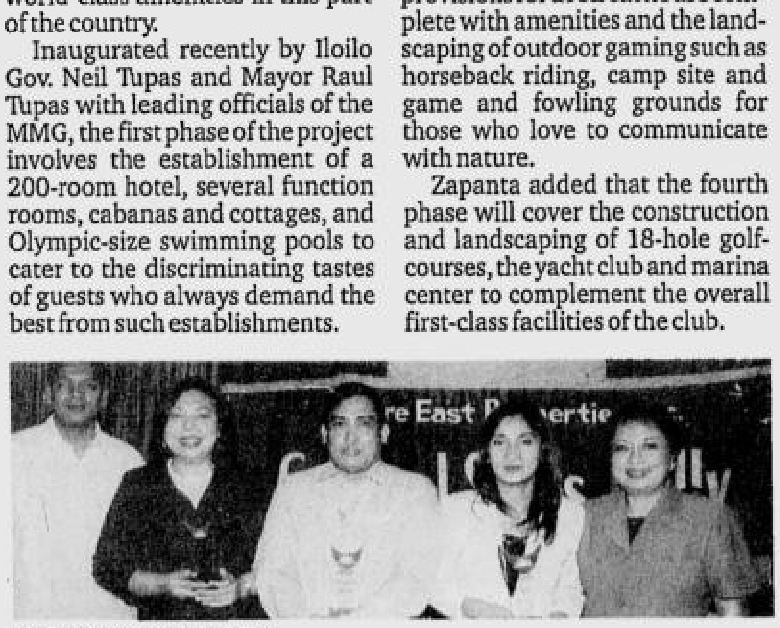
Inaugurated recently by Iloilo Gov. Neil Tupas and Mayor Raul Tupas with leading officials of the MMG, the first phase of the project involves the establishment of a 200-room hotel, several function rooms, cabanas and cottages, and Olympic-size swimming pools to cater to the discriminating tastes of guests who always demand the best from such establishments.

Joselito Zapanta, managing director of the IWYC, explained that the project, located in Barotak Viejo, Iloilo province, will cover four phases, and is expected to be finished in three years.

He added that the second phase of the project, covers the construction of two types of playgrounds for children. One is the water-based playground to cover an all-fresh-water expanse, and the second one is a sun-based playground for children to enjoy solar energy at its best.

The third phase will cover the provisions for a retreat house complete with amenities and the landscaping of outdoor gaming such as horseback riding, camp site and game and fowling grounds for those who love to communicate with nature.

Zapanta added that the fourth phase will cover the construction and landscaping of 18-hole golf-courses, the yacht club and marina center to complement the overall first-class facilities of the club.



PRESIDENT'S CUP

Affordable housing developer Empire East Properties Inc. recently presented its President's Cup to its best-performing branch sales managers, marketing directors and property consultants for the second quarter of 2002 during its General Sales Rally held at The World Centre Building in Makati City. EEPI president Zenaida Marquez (far right) and vice president for operations Laertes Geli (far left) handed out the awards to sales manager Vicky Alamis (second from right), Florencio Malaki (center) and Nikki Samonte for garnering the highest paid-up sales.

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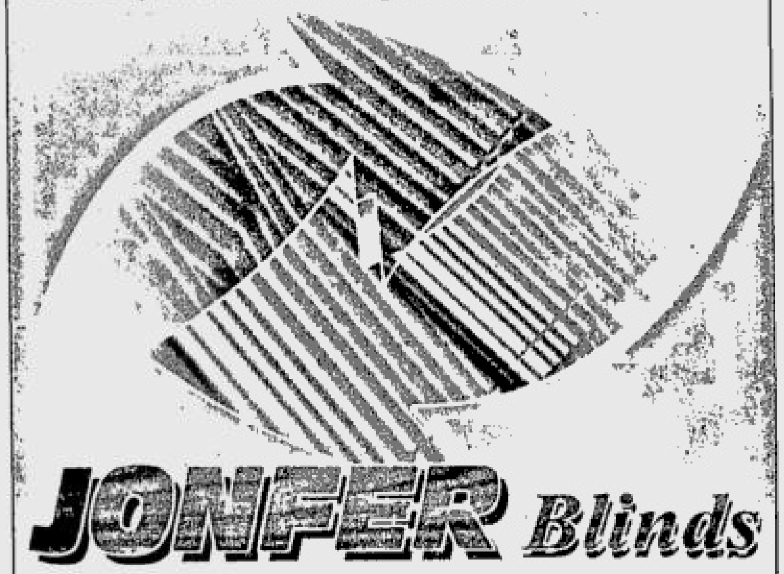

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Gov't sets new ceiling for low-cost housing

By Charles E. Buban

THE HOUSING and Urban Development Coordinating Council recently adjusted the loan ceiling that subdivision and housing developers may avail for its socialized and low-cost housing projects.

In a memorandum dated Oct. 21, HUDCC chair and Housing Secretary Michael Defensor raised the loanable amount for socialized housing packages to up to P225,000 while creating two loan ceilings under low-cost housing packages: from P225,000 to P0.5 million for Level 1 category and from P0.5 million to P2 million for Level 2 category.

The adjustment was based on the 80 percent growth rate in consumer price index for housing and repairs from 1995 to 2002, according to the memorandum.

This means private developers, who are required to provide housing for low-income groups, can do so for as much as P2 million. Before, they were required to do it for as low as P180,000 to P200,000 which a majority of developers consider very challenging to comply with considering the increase in cost of housing and construction materials in recent years.

The said proposal was first raised by the group of developers led by Jesus Atencio, president of the Subdivision and Housing Developers Association, and Giovanni Olivares president of the Organization of Socialized Housing Developers of the Philippines in a series of meetings with Defensor.

Two levels

The inclusion of another level (Level 2) under the low-cost packages was meant to expand the eligibility of banks to comply with the rules set under items B and C of Section 11 of Republic Act 7835, the law which provides for a comprehensive and integrated shelter and urban development financing program.

Section 11 refers to nonbudgetary funding sources that the government may use to fund the implementation of a Comprehensive and Integrated Shelter and Urban Development Financing Program.

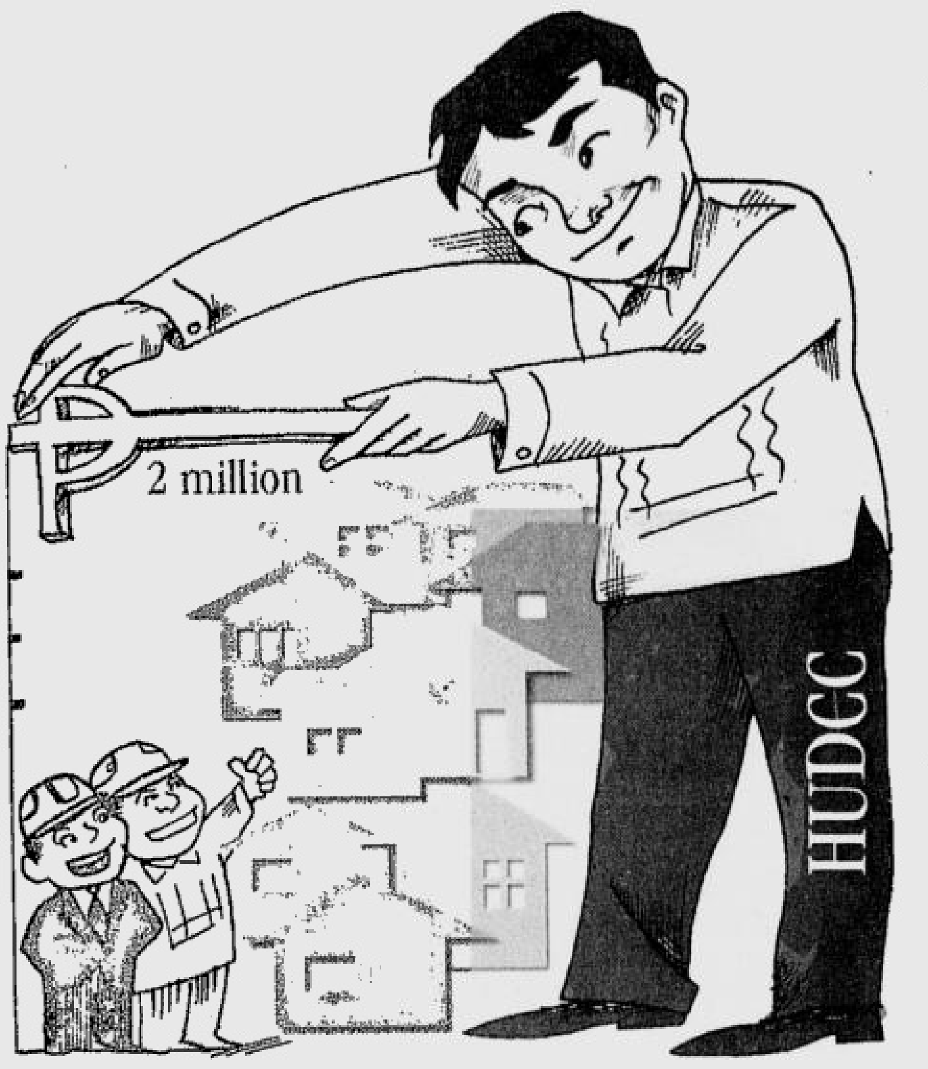

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Under item B of Section 11, all unused agri-agra allocation funds from banks in the preceding year shall be invested in socialized and low-cost housing. Item C, on the other hand, will now allow loans up to P2 million as eligible for the rediscounting facility of the Banko Sentral ng Pilipinas.

Welcome development

Developers nationwide welcomed the HUDCC memorandum. "Once the memo was circulated, we were able to double the sales from 10 housing units to 20 (based on the P225,000 principal at 9 percent interest rate). The impact of the memo was immediate," reported Atencio.

The SHDA and OSHDP based their proposal on a National Statistic Office data from 1996 to 2001 citing a 14 percent increase of prime construction materials including roofing, sands and stone.

"The previous rates only make the ruling unenforceable since it is no longer based on the current market situation," Atencio noted.

"Much more the new ruling coincides with the recent adjustment of the current interest structure on Pag-Ibig loans which lowered the amortization for low-cost housing projects." Atencio was referring to the 9 percent interest loan for house and lot packages costing P180,000 to P225,000.

Previously, Pag-Ibig charges 12 percent.

Congress seeks ways to address loan amortization problems

By Romulo Ponte
PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

BIÑAN, Laguna—South-metro homeowners facing eviction due to their loan amortization problems may soon have answers to their demands as the Congress invited the homeowners' organization president Evangeline P. Pallones to attend the hearing of the proposed measures on housing and urban development relevant to their members' predicaments last Wednesday afternoon.

Rep. Prospero C. Nograles invited Pallones, president of Sagip Tahanan at Kabuhayan ng Laguna Inc. (STKL), a homeowners organization that has 30,000 members (including children) belonging to 74 subdivisions in Laguna, Cavite and Muntinlupa City.

The housing and urban development measures proposed by members of Congress include the passage of House Resolution 45 urging the implementation of Republic Act 8501, otherwise known as the "Housing Loan Condonation Act of 1998" that was introduced by Rep. Jose G. Solis.

The other proposed measures were passage of House Bills 2740 and 4748, both seeking to provide a three-year moratorium on the foreclosure of mortgage housing units to any of the government institutions and agencies involved in the national shelter program, and 4264 that seeks to provide a three-year moratorium on all low-cost housing loans with any of the government institutions and agencies in the national shelter program, amending for the purpose Republic Act 8501.

House Bill 2740 was authored by Nograles, while HB 4748 and 4264 were authored by Representatives Rozzano Rufino B. Biazon and Juan Miguel F. Zubiri, respectively.

The hearing took place at the Conference Room 5, Ramon Mitra Building, House of Representatives, Batasan Complex, Quezon City.

Recently, STKL homeowners raised their demands to housing authorities.

They demanded that housing authorities "remove the penalty on the homeowners' irregular payments of monthly amortization due to valid reasons; reduce exorbitant interests and remove the arrears; lower the monthly amortization, stop foreclosure proceedings and scrap litigation fees imposed by the (housing agencies); repeal Republic Act 8501 that provides that nonpayment within six months would mean eviction; and to finally return to the rightful/original owners those units already sold by the National Home Mortgage and Finance Corp. to other buyers."

'Disenyo' holds unique expo

THE FIRST Disenyo 2002 will be holding the lifestyle and interior design exhibit—a unique exposition that has a lot in store for students, professionals, homemakers, hobbyists, small and medium entrepreneurs and technical experts of all ages—from Nov. 14 to 17 at the World Trade Center in Pasay City. Disenyo 2002 will be staged back to back with Fire, Safety and Security during the 12th Philconstruct.

Seminars and workshops will be conducted by tax management practitioners, trade officials, patent companies and government agencies and will focus on relevant issues such as financial management, creative taxation, contract administration, protecting inventions and product patenting for budding and established entrepreneurs. Presentations on creative marketing for interior design-based products, product design trends for home, and interior furnishings for interior decorators and professionals are also lined up.

For the technical professionals, there will be seminars on specification for Portland cement concrete pavement, variability of cement quality, guidance for complete quality assurance; recovery of aggregates and sand from waste concrete; environmental management plans; pavement failures, their causes and cures; asphalt recycling by Anderson Asphal; waste management system for the construction industry; the latest developments in steel technology plus special applications for vertical and horizontal steel. The seminars will be conducted by top engineers, Department of Public Works and Highways officials, contractors and respected consultancy services.

Interesting, exciting and beneficial seminars and workshops on a wide variety of topics such as practical "feng shui" for everyday living and house planning and interior decorating on a shoestring budget will be conducted by noted architects, florists, interior designers and medical experts.

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RALPHSON Javier, Sammy Bujaimed, Kevin Maxwell Ko and David Angelo Belarmino stake a claim to their future in Brentville's clubhouse groundbreaking event.

Brentville kids stake their claim to the future

YOUNG VIPs Kevin Ko, Ralphson Javier, Sammy Bujaimed and Daniel Angelo Bellarmino, assisted by their parents and officials of Filinvest Land Inc., made a pretty picture as they dug into the ground with their shovels to mark the beginning of a new community landmark—the main clubhouse of Brentville International.

Brentville's varied residential clusters now hum with the energy of a lived-in environment. Families with young children who are enrolled at nearby Brent International School make up a noticeable segment of the resident mix. Expatriates with long-term contracts, assigned to the Calabarzon Industrial Parks in Laguna lend an international air to the community.

Katherine de los Reyes, a long-time resident of the Prominence residential cluster, moved from Alabang to be in the exclusive, well-landscaped community at Brentville. "I work all the way in Makati but I find it worth the trip to come home. I open the window and look out to a refreshing view of green fields. From November to March, I hardly use air-conditioning. And walking around Brentville's park-like environment is wonderful."

Brentville's five residential clusters—Sunshine Place, Meridien, West Pare, Prominence and Woodmore Spring—are separate, self-contained neighborhoods with their own amenities and cluster entries. The Mediterranean design adopted for the stylish homes, enhances the general appeal of the impressive gated community. Avenues are lined with shade trees and date palms. Floral hedges brighten walkways that link one residential cluster to the other. "We have made it a point to select shade trees and date palms to give it that nice look of distinction," says Alex Fuentespina, Filinvest landscape contractor who is also a lot owner in Sunshine Place.

Outside Brentville's gates, residents have a choice of great lifestyle options. Enchanted Kingdom is but a stone's throw away. Golfing dads get a chance to play golf in the nearby golf clubs. Moms get their fill of shopping at Festival Mall in Filinvest Corporate City in Alabang. On weekends, young adults get to fulfill their high for extreme sports by driving to the nearby dive spots and race tracks or simply get together with friends at the cafés and restaurants in Alabang.

During the recent groundbreaking ceremony for the main clubhouse and amenities, Filinvest Land Inc. president Joseph Yap stressed the significance of having the main clubhouse as the center for social interaction and family-oriented activities. When completed the main clubhouse will have facilities such as swimming pools for adults and children, basketball and tennis courts and the multipurpose social hall. Aside from the young VIPs, residents and investors Alex Fuentespina, Anthony Kauffman, Roel Leuterio and Edwin Belarmino were on hand to witness the event.

Filinvest invites prospective residents to a tour of Brentville's world-class environs. Call 772-2745 or 76 for an appointment or visit the showroom at the second floor of The Village Front commercial building in Brentville, Mamplasan, Laguna.

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Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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Anti-cellulite treatments: machines

WHEN I was a teenager, my family was witness to a strange ritual that went on for a couple of months. Every night Miguela, our *labandera*, would enter my room with a rolling pin in her hand. No, we were not making pies in my bedroom. I had read somewhere that you could smash your fat cells to smithereens if you applied enough manual pressure. I figured a rolling pin was the perfect tool and since Miguela was the most husky among our household helpers, she was chosen to do the job.

> Many women want to try the technique since it doesn't involve surgery or oral medication but are indecisive because of the high price

WELL AND GOOD

Tina Aboitiz Juan

I never asked her opinion but I'm sure she must have thought I was some kind of masochist especially when all I got for her muscular efforts were bruises on both thighs. Little did I know that my low-tech attempt at cellulite eradication would one day go high-tech with the invention of Endermologie, a machine that combines rolling and suction techniques that claim to smoothen out cellulite-riddled thighs. It's a good thing I did not know about the suction part because Miguela would have been armed not only with a rolling pin but also the vacuum cleaner. I will never live down that embarrassing episode in my life. My family still laughs about it up to now.

Endermologie and other brands are the only types of machines approved by the US Food and Drug Administration (FDA) to "temporarily reduce the appearance of cellulite." It was developed in France in the late 1970s to treat burns and scars but it was observed that it also improved the appearance of cellulite as well as skin texture and body contour.

The machine delivers a deep massage by pulling the skin upward with a suction device and it is kneaded between two mechanical rollers. The exact reason why Endermologie works is not quite clear. The most plausible theory is that it stretches the fibrous bands of vertically arranged connective tissues that surround the fat cells. Once the

ANTI/ p.C4

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Demonstration/Student Participation Classes

Getting Ready For The Holidays 6 November 7, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm All-American 5 Star Brownies, Butterscotch Brownies with Fruits and Nuts, German Chocolate Brownies with Coconut Caramel Topping, Tipsy Mexican Brownies, Updated Rocky Road Brownies Tuition Fee - P850

Christmas Menu 4 November 17, Sunday, 1:30-5:00 pm Roast Chicken with Two Kinds of Dressing, Herb Roast Pork with Potatoes, Green Salad, Candied Yams, Cream of Potato Soup with Leeks Tuition Fee - P1,000

For The Love Of Chocolate 1 November 21, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Chocolate Cake with Caramel Sauce, Black and White Cheesecake, No Fail Chocolate Crinkles 2, Chocolate Fudge Squares Suprema, Not Just Another Brownie 2 Tuition Fee - P850

Just Packaging (new course) November 23, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm For a change - no baking, no cooking, just a lot of ideas for packaging for the holiday season! Unusual food containers and usual materials and containers made unusual. Tuition Fee - P500

Just Desserts 7 (new course) November 26, Tuesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Fresh Fruit Tart with Creme Fraiche Filling, Layered Tiramisu, Single Serve Trifle, Mango Flan, No Bake Chocolate Cheesecake Tuition Fee - P850

Kitchen Specialties 1 November 28, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Almond Poppy Seed Cake, Apple Cake with Glaze, Lemon Cake, Coconut Carrot Cake, Assembled Chocolate Christmas Tree Tuition Fee - P850

Casseroles And Pasta 2 (new course) December 1, Sunday, 1:30-5:00 pm Bella Italia Lasagna, Seafood Pasta, All-American Beef Stew, Spanish Pata and Beans, Beef Caldereta with Phyllo Pastry Crust
Tuition Fee - P1,000

Casseroles And Pasta 1 December 3, Tuesday, 1:30-5:00 pm Fettucini with Smoked Salmon and Caviar, Osso Buco with Noodles, Baked Lengua, Baked Pasta with Chicken and Mushrooms, Vegetables Au Gratin
Tuition Fee - P1,000

From Soup To Dessert 2 December 5, Thursday, 1:30-5:00 pm Cheese Chowder, Fruit Stuffed Squabs, Roast Beef with Peppercorn Crust, Fish Salad, Fried Banana Rolls ala Mode Tuition Fee - P1,000

For The Love Of Chocolate 6 December 7, Saturday, 1:30-5:00 pm Hopscotch Bars, Chocolate Biscotti, Sambo Silvana, Rocky Road Bars Supreme, Chocolate Cake with Satiny Chocolate Glaze and Cream Filling
Tuition Fee - P850

Hands-On Classes

Holiday Baking And Cake Decorating November 9 and 10, Saturday and Sunday, 10 am to 5 pm A fun-filled hands-on baking and decorating course specially designed for the coming holiday season. Students will learn how to make poinsettias, hollies and berries in both gumpaste and royal icing. In addition, students will be baking and decorating their own mini cakes using fondant and buttercream. Limited to 10 students
Tuition Fee - P2,500 lunch included

Hands-On Baking 3 November 12, Tuesday, 10 am to 5 pm A complete hands-on class for those who would like to make bread at home without preservatives and other chemicals. Everything is hand-kneaded the old fashioned way featuring the following bread basket favorites - French Bread, Pandesal, Sticky Buns, Rustic Potato Bread and Monay. Limited to 10 students Tuition Fee - P1,000 lunch included

Hands-On Baking 1 November 19, Tuesday, 10 am to 5 pm A complete hands-on class designed for absolute beginners from the preparation of ingredients, mixing, baking and frosting the cake featuring the following recipes - Moist Chocolate Fudge Cake with Chocolate Ganache, No Bake Cheesecake with Strawberries and Cream and Carrot Cake with Cream Cheese Frosting. Limited to 10 students Tuition Fee - P1,000 lunch included

2-in-1 Classes

How To Set Up A Coffee Bar And Desserts In Miniature November 14, Thursday, 10 am to 5 pm Bring out the entrepreneur in you. We will teach you how to go about setting up your own coffee bar, what machines to buy, what type of beans to purchase including a presentation on costs and viability. As a bonus, we will be offering a wide array of hot and cold coffee concoctions straight from the kitchens of Allegro Beverage Corporation. And to complete the package, we will be demonstrating desserts to go with the coffee.
Tuition Fee - P1,400 lunch included

Decoupage Box And Cookies To Pack November 16, Saturday, 10 am to 5 pm A hands-on art class on how to transform a simple brown box to an amazing work of art using the decoupage technique, boxes with applique finish in Christmas colors and designs. Students will be making their own decoupage boxes to bring home.
In the afternoon, various cookies will be baked including how to wrap and pack them in the newly decorated box.
Tuition Fee - P1,200 lunch included

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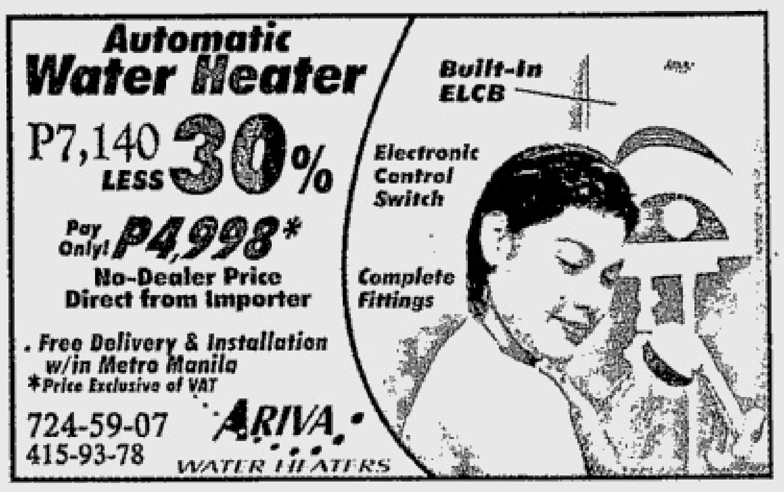
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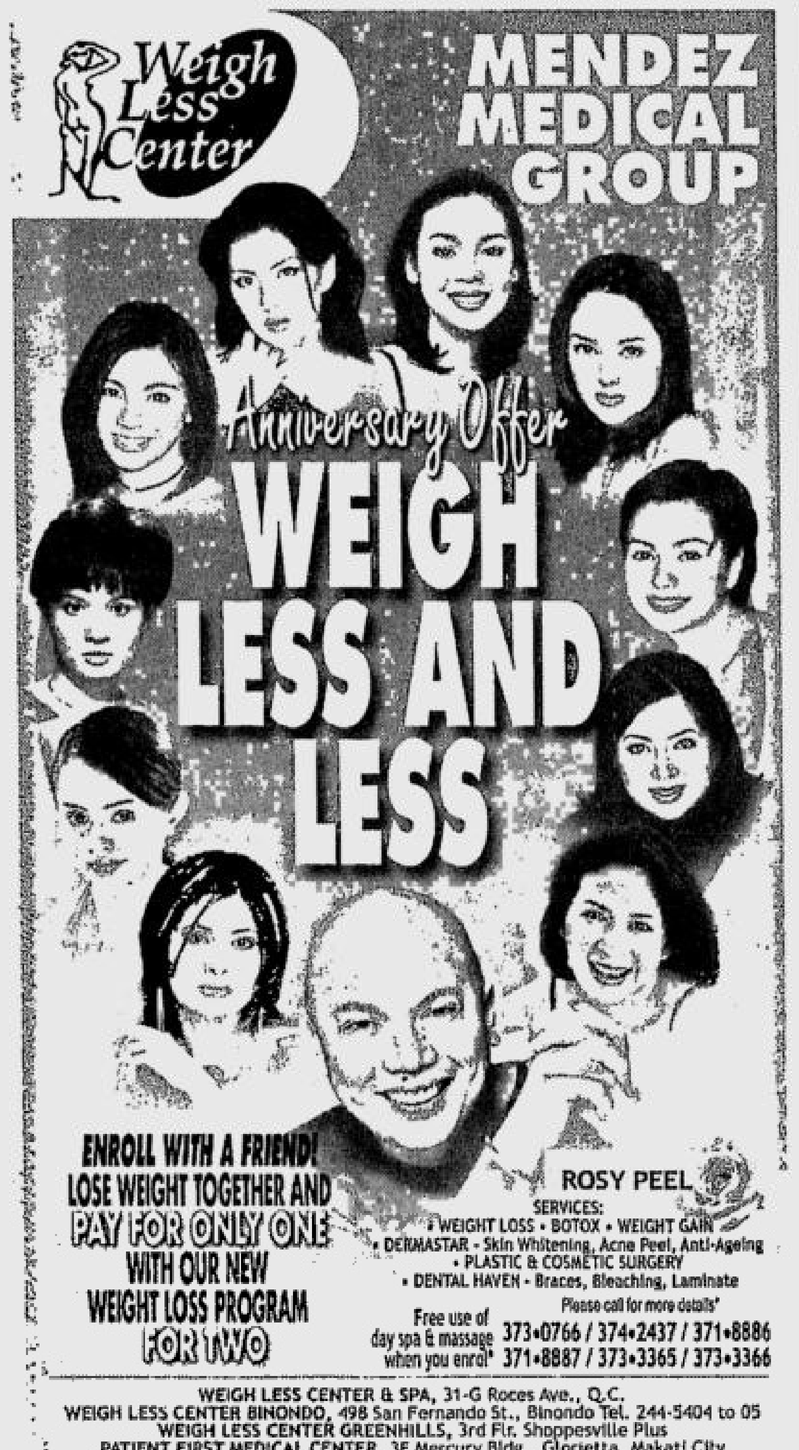
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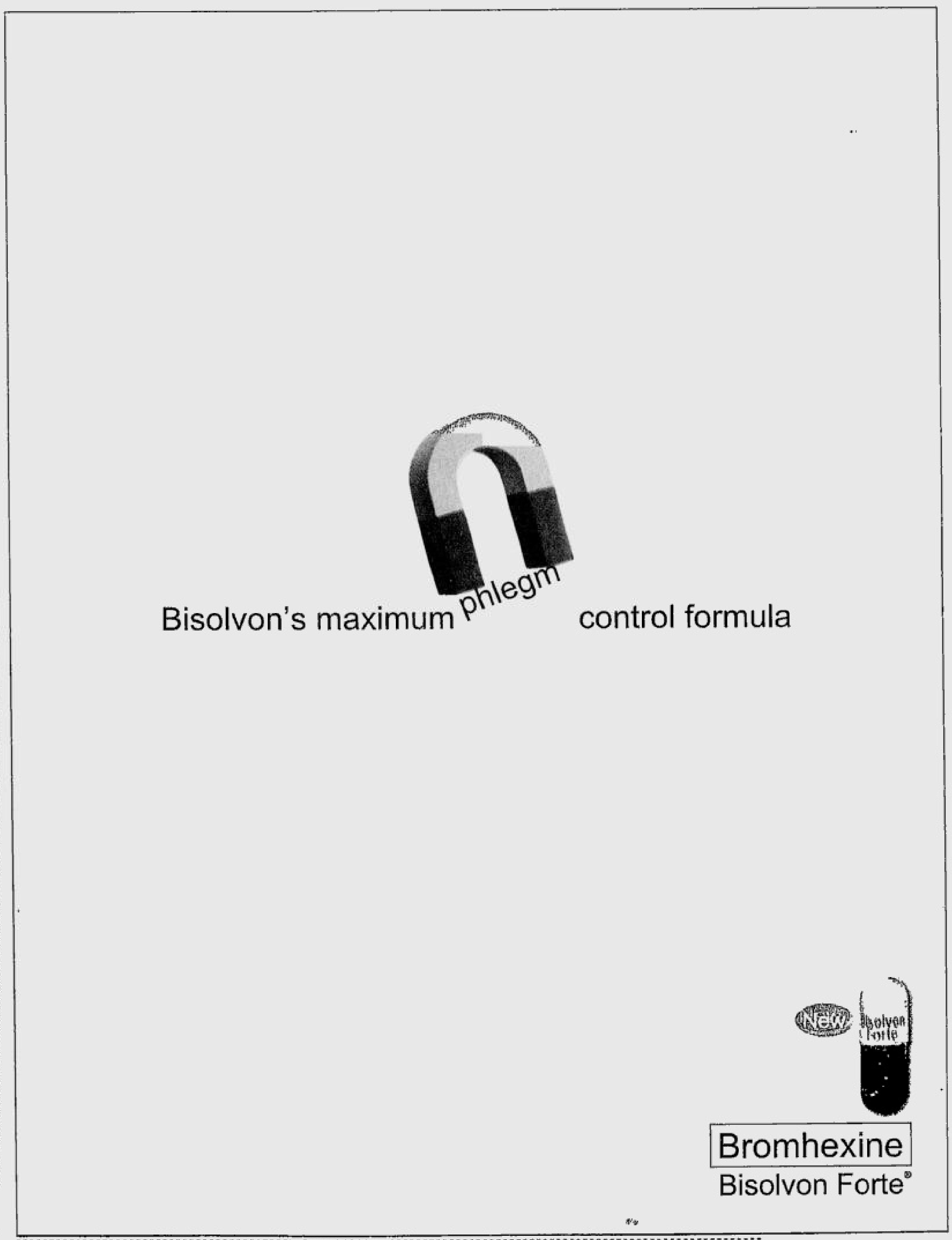
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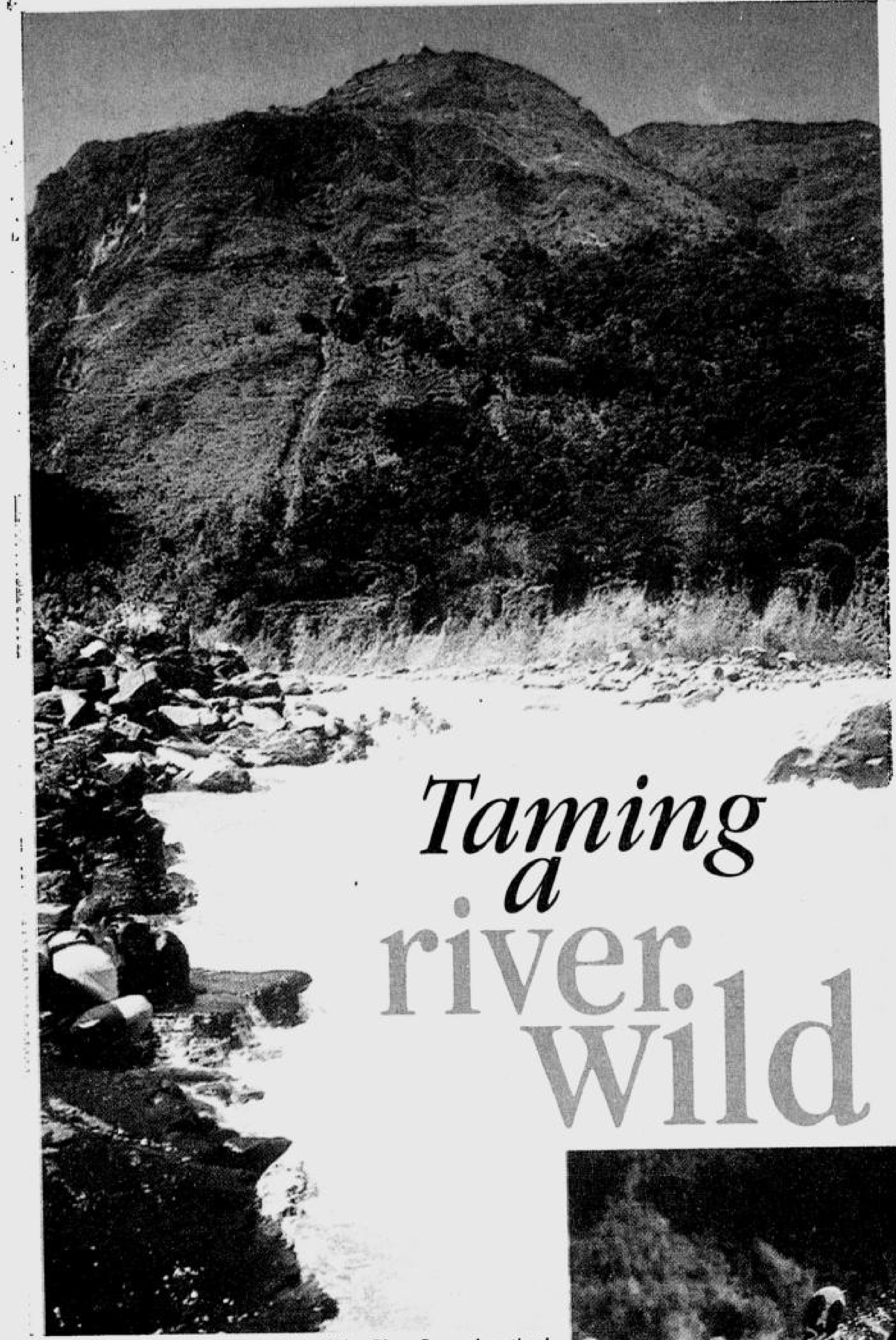
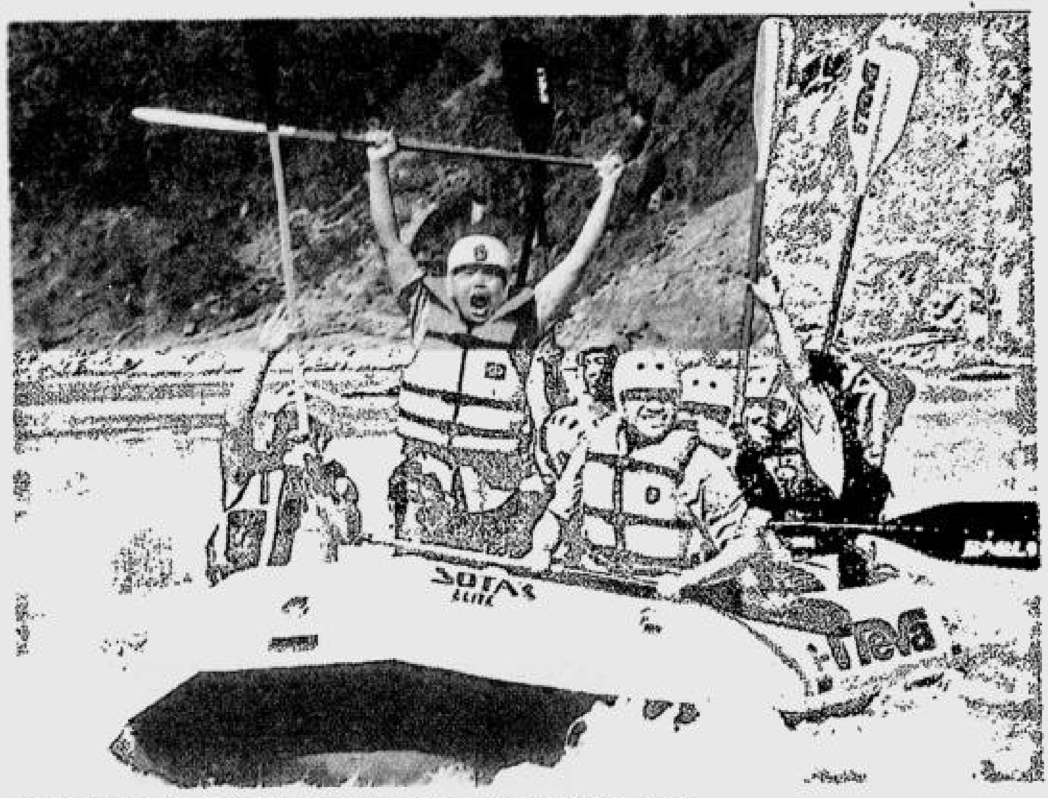
Taming a river wild



THE TREACHEROUS waters of the Chico River Gorge, heartland of Kalinga



RAFTERS bellow their conquest of the mighty Chico River.

BALANCING over still water with raging current underneath

RESCUING a fallen comrade

Text by Constantino C. Tejero
Photos by Levi Nayahangan

> The exhilarating river ride is ideal from June through early January, but especially from September to November

THE TEVA Rafting Adventure accomplished three things in one trip recently: highlighting Kalinga as a destination for eco-cultural tourism; marketing Teva sandals as the ultimate sports gear; and promoting the country as one of the whitewater hotspots in the world.

The eager participants from Manila were Dino de Leon, marketing executive of Kenrich International (distributor of Teva products); Dandi Galvez of Philippine Star; Tatum Ancheta, Young Star; Jon Naguit, publisher of Urge Magazine; Pancho Codilla, Urge; Alfred Adriano, marketing officer of Philippine Airlines (co-sponsor of the trip with Teva); and Levi Nayahangan, photographer.

The group was hosted by Natividad Sugguiyao, marketing and operations manager of the Chico River Quest, a rafting outfitter with a base camp in Kalinga's capital town of Tabuk.

The Chico, although one of the longest rivers in the country, is relatively small, just a tributary of the Cagayan River (which the locals call the Rio Grande). However, the Chico's current is more powerful, as it rushes down from its source in the highlands of Mountain Province to the lowlands of Cagayan. The Chico gained prominence in the early 1980s when tribal chieftain Macliing Dulag was slain by military men for opposing the construction of a dam, which would have flooded villages and damaged the ecology.

Historic descent

American photographer Ned Sickels spotted the river through satellite mapping and, in 1997, he and some fellows from Oregon, as well as a few locals, made the first descent from Bontoc in Mountain Province to Tabuk in Kalinga. It took them four days to negotiate the river.

The Americans described the rapids—over 50 of them—as in the league of those in the Grand Canyon. Chico River was launched as a world-class whitewater-rafting destination, and Kalinga as arguably the whitewater-rafting capital of the Philippines.

In 1998, after consultation with the tribal councils and the communities along the river, Sickels and Sugguiyao put up the Chico River Quest, to help pioneer whitewater rafting in the country.

The outfitter now has five rafts of inflated industrial-strength tarp, each one able to accommodate 8-10 people. It also has 10 sit-in hard kayaks, two sit-on inflatable kayaks, and one cataraft. The company employs 25 guides and an emergency medical technician, all trained by the Red Cross and certified American instructors in First Aid, wilderness training and river rescue. These are mostly youths from villages along the river.

Marathon run

Although there is whitewater rafting in Cagayan and Quezon province, Kalinga is the place for a major adrenaline rush. Mae Shiu, Sugguiyao's daughter, stresses that Chico River is in Kalinga, because outfitters in Tuguegarao, Cagayan, use its name and photos to advertise their establishments.

Shiu, a graduate of Physical Education from the University of the Philippines-Manila who has been teaching PE in Kalinga-Apayao State College for six years, assists her mother in the business and also acts as a river guide. She says they tried to be affiliated with the Department of Tourism, but the DOT people stay away, apparently fearful of tribal wars (for which the Kalingas and Bontocs are known in the Cordillera).

The Chico River Quest marathon run, the premier whitewater expedition in the country, passes through the towns of Tinglayan, Lobuagan and Tabuk, a distance of 53 km from Ambato Put-in through the Chico-Pasil Confluence to Tabuk Take-out. The expedition takes 6-8 hours, depending on water levels.

The number of male rafters is almost twice that of women. Participants must be at least 13 years old, and rafters are required to sign liability-release waivers. They are asked about ailments like asthma or heart disease.

Basic training

Our launch point was Ambato Put-in in Tinglayan, at the foot of the Sleeping Beauty Range (known as the site of the bloodiest mortal combat of the Kalingas of olden times). We outfitted ourselves with personal flotation device and the official sandals.

(Teva sports sandals were invented by Colorado River guide Mark Thatcher in 1982 for hiking and rafting in the Grand Canyon. They have top performance features such as cushion, cup sole construction, antibacterial top soles, sticky bottom soles, rugged outsole, universal strapping system, padded adjustable heel—ready to take you from the trail to the river, hiking, bouldering, kayaking, or simply crater-hopping on the moon.)

Sickels and Shiu gave the group basic training for rafters such as paddling maneuvers and techniques, how to handle the paddle, how to position and move one's body, how to rescue a fallen comrade. We learned basic commands like "paddle forward," "paddle backward," "right backward," "left backward," "high side," and terms such as pinball, eddy out, dig deeper.

The group was divided between a yellow raft and a white one. For the first few minutes we glided by the still landscape, the serenity broken only by an occasional bird on a wing.

Sight and sound

The first rumbling came as we entered the Chico River Gorge, the heartland of Kalinga. From then on, the river ride alternated quickly between serenity and turmoil.

Shiu, who was on our raft, kept us away from holes, maelstroms, and warned us about still water with raging current underneath. Twice our raft was stuck on top of rocks as big as houses, several times hurled against the crags, but everyone was shouting more for joy than terror. We survived Dead Carabao Point by Mabungtot Village in Lobuagan, said to be the most chilling.

The two teams were soon racing, spattering water at one another with the paddles, shouting at the top of their lungs. The three American guides on kayaks followed or went ahead, stopping from time to time to film the rafters.

The loveliest sight was Hanging Garden, actually a group of ancient trees on a promontory with crowns and branches projecting over the water and silvery drops coming from its roots, showering on the awestruck rafters below. And awesome were the two monolithic recesses on limestone cliffs forming shallow coves below.

The serene spots often distracted us from the turbulence ahead, always announced by a rumbling, such as our final major rapids, the Chico-Pasil Confluence.

Two rafters slipped and fell into the churning water but were quickly rescued.

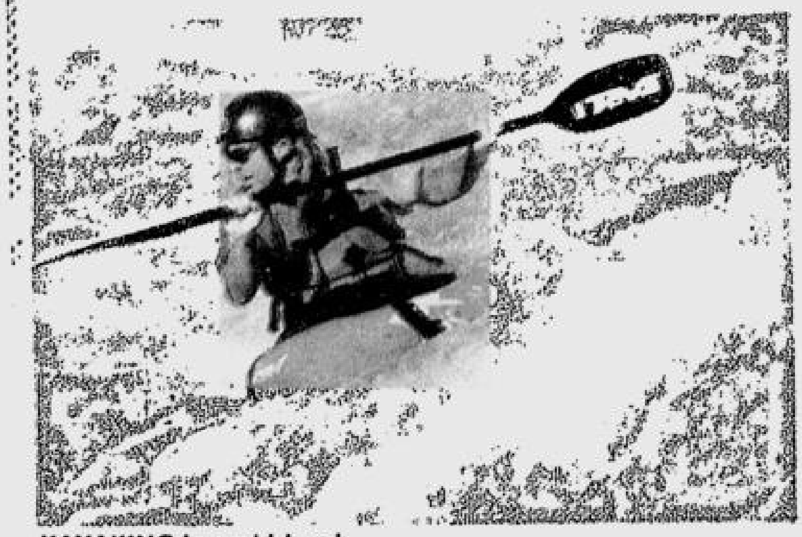
Journey's end

The remainder of the journey would be three hours of navigation downstream to Tabuk. The beginner run featured big but tamer waves with such names as Danny's Wipeout, Roller-Coaster Ride, Horseback Ride, Room of Doom, Piggy Bank, Dragon's Tail, Che Che's Flip.

This is the stretch the Tuguegarao outfitters are taking. Only the Tabuk outfitter is allowed to navigate through the hard continuous rapids upstream on the Tinglayan stretch. (It is not simply about business but also ecology, cultural heritage and ancestral domain. Only the Kalingas can guard and guide their own.)

The exhilarating river ride is ideal from June through early January, but especially from September to November, after the rain, when the water level is high and the volume of the water swirling around and pouring on you is—for want of an accurate description—"impactuous" (imagine 20 basketballs hitting you simultaneously).

To take the Chico River rafting challenge, contact Naty Sugguiyao at (0920) 205-2680, or Dino de Leon at 242-0711.



KAYAKING in a whirlpool

CITY slickers take a break during the expedition through uncharted territory.

Negative thought is a form of pollution

INNER AWARENESS

Jaime T. Licauco

I'D LIKE to discuss pollution of a different kind. It is something we often indulge in but never realize that it is a form of pollution. I refer to negative thoughts.

Our government is interested in eradicating pollution from our environment, the smoke from motor vehicles, hazardous chemical emissions from factories, and even cigarette smoke. People are becoming aware of the necessity of keeping our air clean.

But how many of us are aware of the need to keep our thoughts clean and pollution-free? Hardly anyone, least of all the government and mass media.

This is where the greater danger lies—our utter inability to see the real causes of things. More often, we only see the outside and superficial aspects of things.

The truth is, we cannot have a clean environment unless our thoughts are clean. We cannot have outside peace unless we have internal peace. We cannot have a non-violent world unless each of us has non-violence in our hearts.

Every time I read any of the local papers or turn on the television or radio, I see and hear almost nothing but negative news. Every day, there are people being robbed, raped, kidnapped, injured, maimed or killed. Every day, we hear of stories of corruption, cheating and other anomalies. Every day, there are properties being stolen, burned or destroyed. Good news seldom makes it to the headlines.

Nowadays, it is becoming more and more difficult to distinguish the law enforcer from the criminal. Often, the perpetrators of crimes we read about are those who are supposed to prevent such crimes from being committed.

All these negative things we see around us merely reflect the negativity of our individual thoughts. This is a more difficult type of pollution to understand and control than the pollution in our environment. One actually cannot exist without the other. Our environment is polluted, negative and violent because our minds are polluted, negative and violent. One is the cause of the other.

Evil of any kind cannot exist in the world if there is no evil present in every single soul. It is as simple as that.

In the beginning, there was only thought (*ordea*), and this thought became a physical reality and dwelt among us. As one great physicist said, "The stuff of the universe is mind stuff."

We have to realize that thoughts are things, thoughts have energy and thoughts have power! They can either heal or kill.

Is there anything we, as individuals, can do to help prevent the spread of thought pollution? Yes. We can keep ourselves always alert and on guard about the way we think. We should become aware of every negative thought that comes to our mind, and every time a negative thought appears, we should banish it. Then we should replace such negative thought with a positive one.

We can also avoid negative people because they drain our energy without our realizing it. Worse, we may even be contaminated by their negativity and become negative ourselves.

So, everyone must be involved in keeping our environment pollution-free. If we can check ourselves every time we harbor negative thoughts, if we can look at the positive things in any situation rather than focus on the negative, we can make this country rise above its present travails.

The feeling of hopelessness and helplessness among our people must be addressed not only by the government but by each of us. By refusing to entertain negative thoughts and by converting every negative thought into a positive one, the deadly pollution we see around us will gradually disappear. We can have a truly clean environment, not only physically but also mentally.

Remember that this world is only a reflection of ourselves. When we see all the evil around us, remember that they were created by each of us. We make our own reality. So choose.

Address letters to this column to 308 Prince Plaza I, 106 Legaspi St., Greenbelt, Makati City, or e-mail jlicauco@edsamail.com.ph. Visit my new website at http://j.licauco.tripod.com. Listen to my dzMM radio program every Sunday, 6-8 p.m.

HEARING-IMPAIRED kids take a break.

Various activities highlight National Deaf Awareness Week

THE METRO Manila Federation of Agencies for the Deaf (MMFAD) chair-organizing committee and St. Francis K-6 Inclusive School will hold activities on Nov. 9-15 in observance of National Deaf Awareness Week.

According to Becky M. Santos, executive director of the Very Special Arts ng Pilipinas, this aims to increase public awareness on the prevention, early detection and intervention, education, training and employment of the deaf. The event also educates people on the vital trends and issues about deafness.

The 2002 National Deaf Awareness Week has an ongoing free hearing check-up at various institutions, companies and establishments, in cooperation with the Audiological Services of UST, Manila Hearing Aid Center, UP PGH Otorhinolaryngology, and St. Francis K-6 Inclusive School.

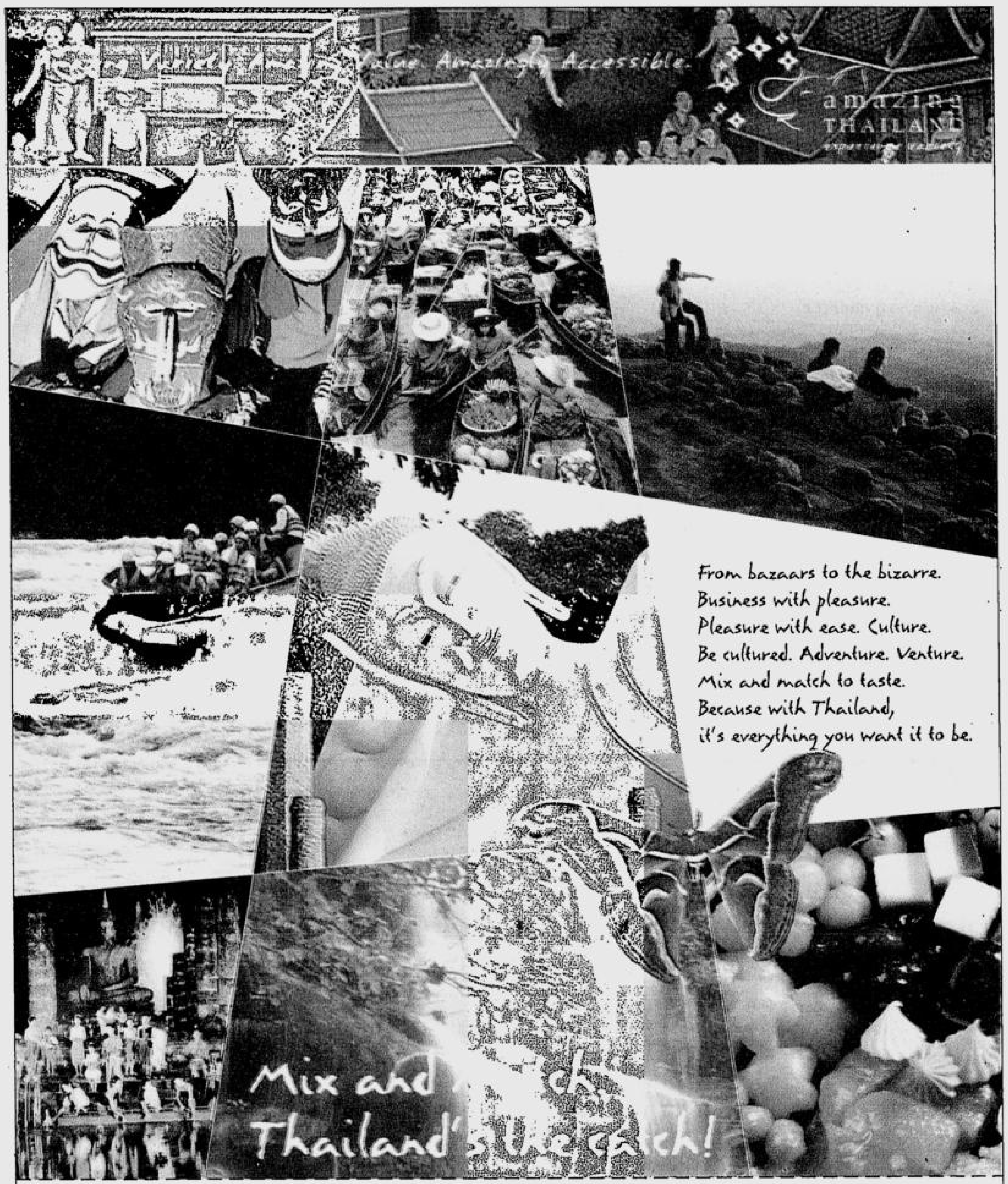
The opening ceremonies will be held from 7 a.m. to 4 p.m. on Nov. 9 at the Rizal Memorial Basketball Stadium. It will start with a parade of MMFAD members. This will also include a cheering competition and a clinical sports fest among the hearing impaired. The Zeñun band and Banda Kawayan will render a special performance.

A symposium with the theme of "Empowerment, Abilities and Recognition of the Deaf" will be held on Nov. 12 at the ground floor of the UST College of Medicine. Awards for deaf achievers will be granted as well.

There will be an On-the-Spot Painting Contest for the deaf on Nov. 13. Exhibits and an open forum will be conducted by Dr. Charlotte Chiong on Nov. 14 at the UP-PGH Quadrangle.

The Philippine Institute for the Deaf will hold Cultural Night at the UST Auditorium on Nov. 15.

Call 712-3731,936-6771, (0918) 926-5239, (0917) 644-6042, or visit St. Francis K-6 Inclusive School, 22 Balabac corner Kapiligan St., North Araneta Subdivision, QC. E-mail sfadcci@hotmail.com.



For a FREE brochure, fill in and mail this coupon to: **Tourism Authority of Thailand**, Philippines Representative Office, 189 Katipunan Avenue, Blueridge, Quezon City 1109, Philippines Tel: 9111660; 4375837 Fax: 4374828 Email: davedj@pacific.net.ph

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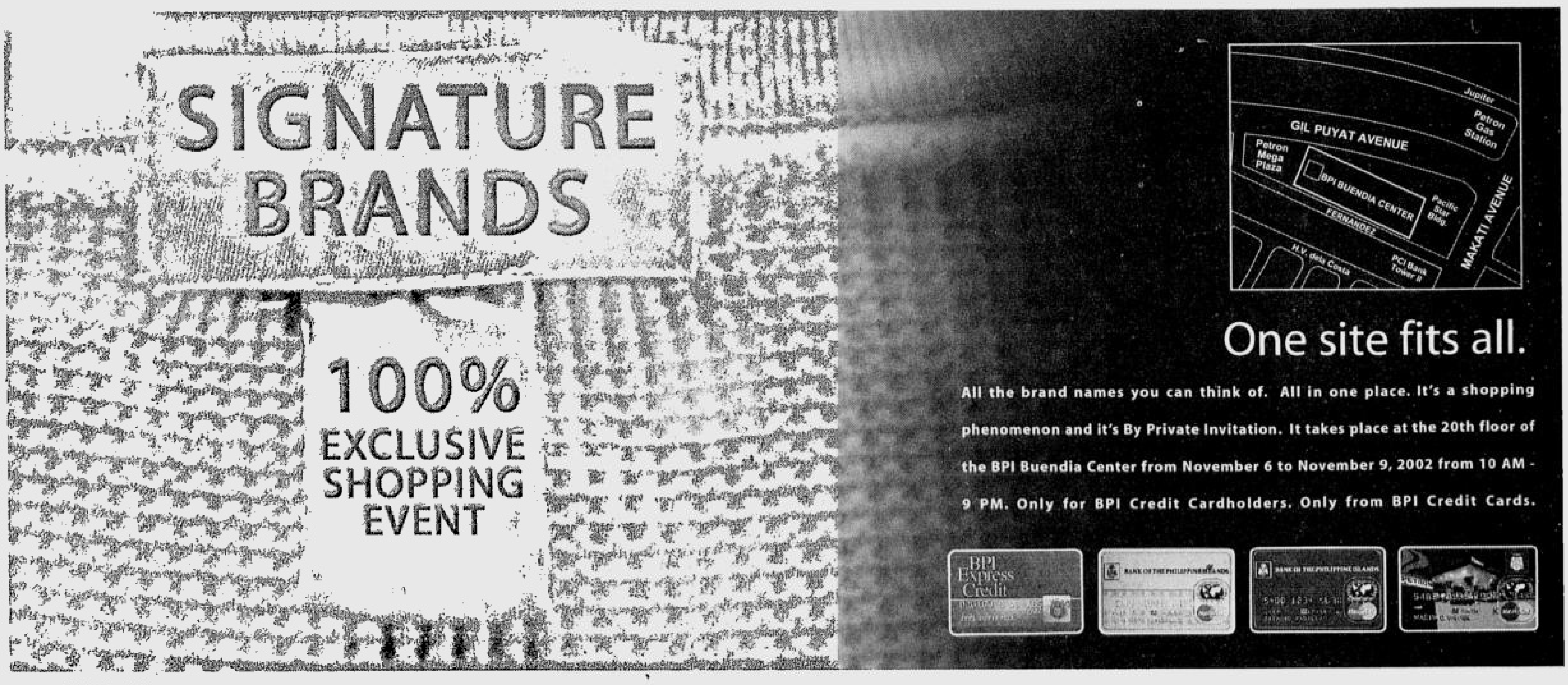


One site fits all.

All the brand names you can think of. All in one place. It's a shopping phenomenon and it's By Private Invitation. It takes place at the 20th floor of the BPI Buendia Center from November 6 to November 9, 2002 from 10 AM - 9 PM. Only for BPI Credit Cardholders. Only from BPI Credit Cards.

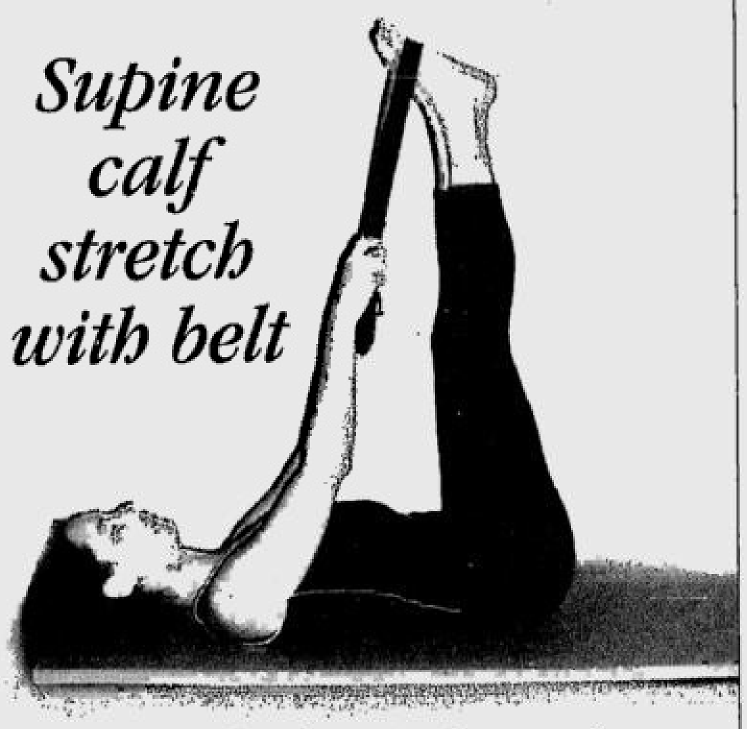
PARTICIPANTS: Armani Exchange • Beauty Bar • Calvin Klein Jeans • CK Underwear • Coach • Denenes • Denman • DKNY • Episode • Fiber Optic Angels • Fiber Optic Trees • Gem Products • G.H. Bass • Hawaiian Tropics • Jessica • Kenneth Cole • Lacoste • Marks and Spencer • Marlboro Classics • Mesaki • Natori • Nina Ricci • Nine West • Polo Ralph Lauren • Ralph Lauren • RMK Fragrances • Salvatore Ferragamo • Tefal • YSL • Blopens • Hallmark • Schaeffer • Starbucks

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. A1-549, Series of 2002

Anti-cellulite treatments: machines

EXERCISE OF THE WEEK

Supine calf stretch with belt



STRETCHES the calf muscles

Equipment

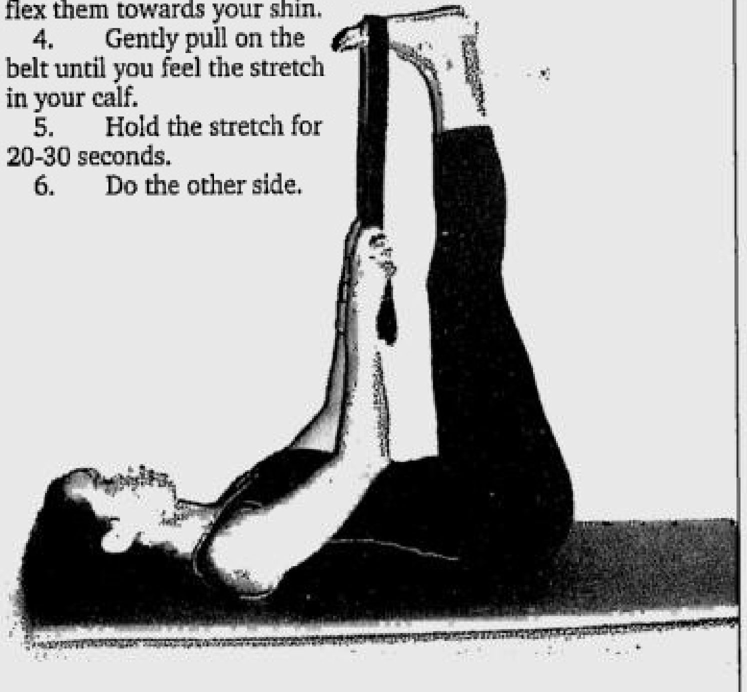
Exercise mat and belt (you can also use a towel or a rope).

Exercise technique

1. Lie down with one leg bent and the other straight up towards the ceiling.
2. Place the belt around the ball of your foot.
3. Point your toes then flex them towards your shin.
4. Gently pull on the belt until you feel the stretch in your calf.
5. Hold the stretch for 20-30 seconds.
6. Do the other side.

Performance tips

1. Make sure to position the belt on the ball of your foot, not the arch or the heel. You cannot properly stretch the calf muscle if the belt is not in the right position.
2. Relax your shoulders while you hold the stretch by pushing them away from your ears.
3. Do not hold your breath while holding the stretch. Breathe normally.



From page C1

tension of the bands is lessened, the fat is not as obvious and the dimpled appearance improves.

You need at least 14 sessions of 35 to 45 minutes each to see results. Some people need more while others need less. Then, because the results are temporary, you need one maintenance session a month or every few months for life, otherwise, the cellulite returns. Presumably, the connective tissue becomes tight and fibrous again.

Endermologie is not cheap at P40,000 to P60,000 for the initial sessions and about P2,000 to P5,000 for the maintenance sessions but it is one of the few viable treatments for cellulite. The FDA would not have approved it otherwise. Unfortunately, it does not work for everyone. That's why there is research confirming the effectiveness of Endermologie and there is also research that finds the opposite.

Here is a brief summary of research for and against Endermologie:

- A 1997 study published in the Aesthetic Surgery Journal of 22 women between the ages of 24 and 48 found that all but one of the participants experienced a reduction in thigh size.
- A 1998 study published in the same journal involved 85 women between the ages of 21 and 61. Forty-six participants finished 7 sessions and experienced an over-all reduction of half an inch while the 39 participants who finished 14 sessions had a reduction of three-fourths of an inch.
- A 1997 study published in the Skin Research and Technology Journal concluded that there was significant smoothening of skin.
- A 1999 study published in the Plastic and Reconstructive Surgery Journal with 35 women treating one thigh with Endermologie to compare the difference with the untreated thigh. The researchers reported that only 10 of the women felt their cellulite appearance improved. More objective tests using ultrasound could find no difference in thigh fat depth measurement between the treated and untreated legs.

The best candidates are less than 30 pounds overweight, generally in good health, with good skin tone, are motivated to exercise and diet, and have realistic expectations. In the end, in spite of FDA approval, the decision to do Endermologie depends entirely on you. Many women I have talked to would be willing to try the technique since it doesn't involve surgery or oral medication but are indecisive because of the high price.

Manual massage and the use of loofahs and brushes have been around for years as anti-cellulite treatments. There have been no scientific studies to prove that they work. According to experts, they produce some swelling at the skin surface to briefly improve skin texture. If a masseuse can deliver a hard enough massage to stretch the fibrous bands, then manual massage could possibly have the same effect as Endermologie. However, it would be difficult to get the same intensity each time and over each area of the buttocks and thighs because the massage is being done by hand.

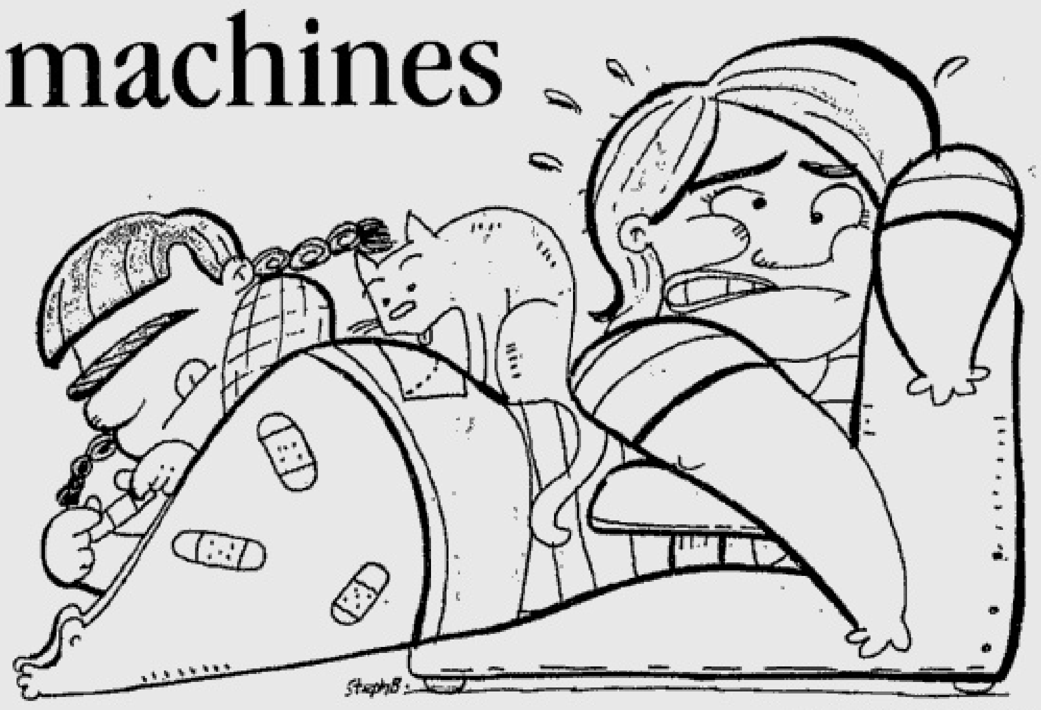


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

External ultrasound is another type of machine that is touted as an effective treatment against cellulite but it does not have any scientific research to back it up. Physical therapists use low intensity ultrasound machines (1 to 1.5 watts per square centimeter) to heat up and hasten healing in sore muscles while plastic or dermatological surgeons use high intensity versions (3 watts per square centimeter) to burst fat cells in preparation for liposuction.

There are claims being made that the ultrasound machines can be used to destroy fat cells without having to suck them out through liposuction. What happens to the ruptured fat cells? Proponents say your body will get rid of it through its usual waste removal systems. Critics counter that if the method works, it will probably only do so for small areas like under the chin. Other concerns are that the technician cannot control the depth of penetration of the ultrasonic waves and may destroy other body tissues.

Next week: Surgery and exercise as anti-cellulite treatments

The Association of Fitness Professionals of the Philippines (AFPP) will hold its Annual National Fitness Convention on Nov. 23 and 24 at the Shangri-La EDSA Hotel. Three international speakers will conduct seminars on group exercise, personal training, and fitness management. Topics will include yoga, Pilates, stability ball training, interval training, squat analysis, how to retain gym members, and how to market your gym effectively. For more details, call Ivy Abuel at 850-7647 or text her at 0917-518-1202.

For questions or past articles and exercises, go to www.tinajuanfitness.com.

In coordination with NATIONAL HISTORICAL INSTITUTE
Museum of Philippine History & National Historical Institute Building, T.M. Kalaw St., Ermita, Manila, The Philippines
P.O. Box 2926, Manila

Bandera NG ATING BAYAN
PHOTO CONTEST

Photograph the Philippine Flag and get a chance to win!
See story below for details

Open to all amateur and professional photographers

What's at stake
• First Prize P50,000
• Second Prize P20,000
• Third Prize P10,000

BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST Mechanics: Here's what you should know!

1. The theme of the BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST is the Philippine flag. Contestants should photograph the Philippine Flag in a unique or dramatic situation.

2. Submit photo entry in 8R format (8" x 10"), either black & white or full color, original and not previously published in any form of print media. Each entry must include the corresponding negative or transparency

3. Contestants are required to fill out the official application form found in the tabloid, BANDERA, with their name, address, signature, contact number and attach three (3) clippings of the new BANDERA masthead.

4. Photocopies of the application form or the masthead will not be accepted.

5. Send entries to:
ANG BANDERA NG ATING BAYAN PHOTO CONTEST
c/o The Marketing Department
Inquirer Publications, Inc.
Yague St. Corner Chino Roces Avenue
Makati City 1205

6. Contestants may submit as many photo entries as they want, provided that each photo entry is accompanied by one (1) official application form and three (3) BANDERA mastheads.

7. PRIZES:
Prizes are as follows:
1st prize - P50,000; 2nd prize - P20,000
3rd prize - P10,000, and five (5) consolation prizes of P2,000 each.

8. A contestant may win only once. Should one contestant win more than once, He/She will get the prize of higher value.

9. CRITERIA:
Composition: 30%
Uniqueness: 20%
Technical: 20%
Overall Impact: 30%

10. BANDERA reserves the right over all submitted photo entries. Entries will not be returned to their respective owners. By entering the contest, each entrant agrees that BANDERA may use his/her name or image for contest promotion.

11. Deadline for submission of entries is on 5pm of December 18, 2002. Provincial entries must allow one (1) week for mailing. BANDERA will not be responsible for any lost or delayed entries.

12. A panel of judges will determine winning photos with the presence of a DTI representative on December 20, 2002.

13. The list of winners will be published on the December 23, 2002 issue of BANDERA. Winners will also be notified by registered mail

14. All employees of Inquirer Publications, Inc., and its affiliate companies, and their relatives up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the contest.

15. Winners should present winner's notice and two (2) valid IDs when claiming their prize. Prizes may be claimed in the following areas:

METRO MANILA
Inquirer Publications, Inc.
Alliance Building, Yague Stre
Makati City

CEBU
Inquirer Publications, Inc.
c/o Cebu Daily News
13-15 Escario Street, Cebu City

DAVAO
FEP Printing, Barangay Ma-a
Ma-a Road, Davao City

16. Prizes not claimed within sixty (60) days after receipt of notification will be forfeited in favor of Inquirer Publications, Inc. With prior DTI approval. Inquirer Publications will shoulder the 20% prize tax.

Promo period is from Sept. 23 to Dec. 18, 2002

See print ad in BANDERA for more details.

Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 3888, Series of 2002

PCA hosts party for top tennis players

IT WAS a gathering of the country's top tennis players and a reunion of former champions and Davis Cup players as the Philippine Columbian Association hosted a cocktail party last Sept. 23 for the forthcoming 21st PCA Open that will be held Nov. 12-24.

EFREN Ocampo, chairman of the organizing committee of the PCA Open, Rey Orsolino of Valle Verde and Chowking's Hanky Lee.

Among those who attended were Johnny Jose, the last Filipino tennis player to win a gold medal in the Asian Games; Dyan Castillejo, the 1984-85 women's singles champion-turned-TV personality; Jennifer Saret, the 1989-92 women's singles champion; and Eve Olivarez, the 1993 women's singles champion. The former champions and Davis Cuppers were Roland So, Raymond Suarez, Mike Misa, Johnny Arcilla, Michael Mora, and Adelo Abadia.

PCA President Jess Capulong, Vivian Mangaluz of Equitable PCI, Peter Lee of Hongkong Tea House and Irene Flores of Equitable PCI

The PCA open is the biggest tennis tournament in the country today in terms of prize money and participation. Some 550 local and foreign tennis players are expected to see action.

A team event involving the participation of clubs such as Manila Polo, Valle Verde, Hillsborough and Villamor, among others, was added this year.

There will be raffle prizes to lucky spectators like trip to Hong Kong for two courtesy of Las Palmas, a vacation for two in Boracay's Sun Village, TV set, refrigerator, clothes from Accel, racquets and bags from Dunlop and gift certificates from David's Salon.

DAVIS Cupper Michael Mora, PB Com's Raul Diaz, Johnny Arcilla and Nino Salvador

TB control and nutrition program launched in Caloocan

WYETH Philippines Inc. recently launched Alay Kalinga, a tuberculosis (TB) control and nutrition program, during the "A Time to Heal" medical mission program held in Bagong Silang, Caloocan City.

Wyeth spearheaded the new anti-TB campaign together with Couples for Christ, DOH-Caloocan Health Office, Philippine Coalition Against Tuberculosis, Committee of German Doctors for Developing Countries, the Philippine Tuberculosis Society and the UST Hospital Department of Family Medicine.

The objective of Alay Kalinga is to control and eradicate the rampant state of tuberculosis infection in Bagong Silang, the population of which has among the highest rates of prevalence of the disease in the country.

Boy de Claro, president of Wyeth, explains, "Our company is known as the leader in TB therapy, and our objective is to aid in the eradication of this disease to help our poor countrymen. This is one way of showing our commitment to the community in which we conduct our business."

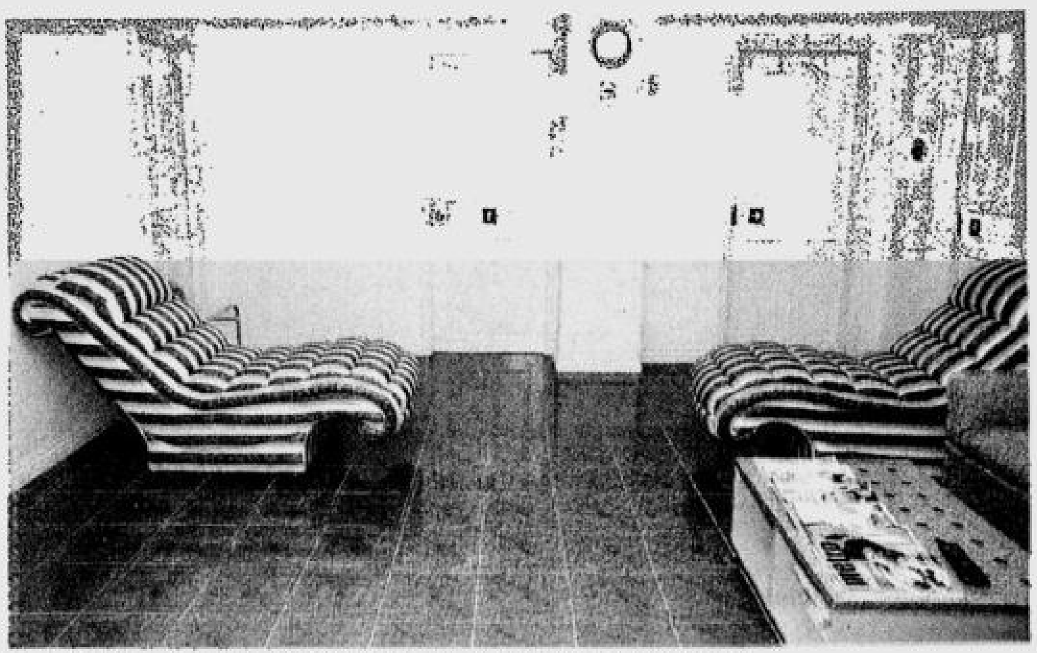
Meanwhile Francis Gonzaga, Wyeth's sales and marketing director, Pharma Division, stressed the need for urgency in the fight against tuberculosis by revealing that the Philippines had one of the highest reported cases of TB in the world and about 75 Filipinos died of TB each day.

This project really needed a lot of commitment as well as human and technical resources to succeed, he said. It embodies the values of Wyeth, such as the spirit of integrity, which is doing what is good for customers and communities, and the spirit of collaboration, wherein resources are shared with strategic partners.

During the launch, the Wyeth team and partners gathered a number of the townsfolk for an extensive TB screening through sputum smear and X-rays. The five-year program targets the full eradication of TB in the area, which includes the provision of full-course anti-TB medicine, educational seminars on TB prevention, and feeding programs that will benefit other members of the community.

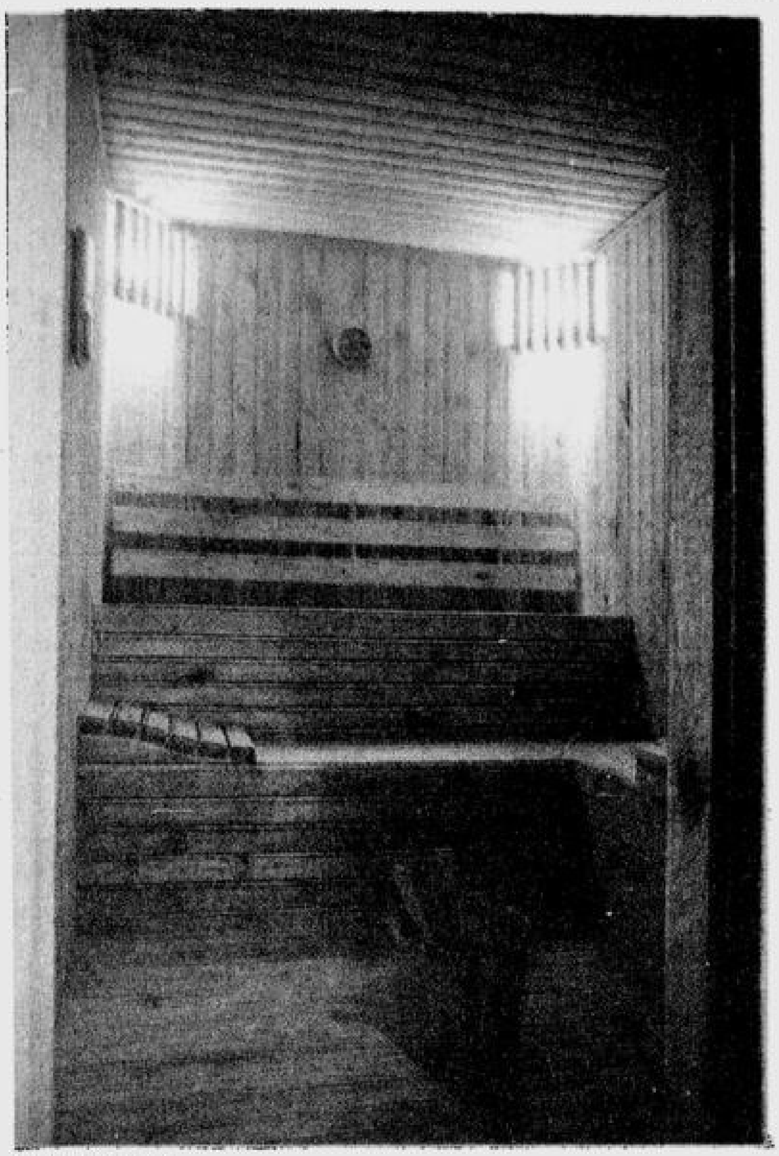
Friends strengthen their bond with business venture

Text by Leah Salterio
Photos by Mike Alquinto



WAITING room where clients can read magazines or take a nap

EXCELSIOR Spa owners Ralph Emerson See, Hansel Kotex and Albert Ong



SAUNA room

WHEN five friends from high school embarked on their first business venture as a group, they made a unanimous decision to build a spa, which will satisfy a person's health needs as well as offer invigorating services.

Hansel Kotex, Karen Go, Ralph See, Albert Ong,and Arthur See secured a franchise for Excelsior Spa and put up a branch in Greenhills, which opened May 15.

"Within the area, there's no spa yet," Kotex explains. "We felt there's a need to have a spa in Greenhills. It's quite congested in Quezon City."

Thankfully, the friends didn't have a hard time getting the spa franchise.

"We learned that Excelsior was open for franchise so we tried to raise the P500,000 fee," Kotex says. "We spent a total of P6 million for the construction, rental and deposit. With our conservative estimate, we hope to recoup the expenses in three years."

Kotex, who boasts of his seven-year experience as the plant operation manager in his uncle's furniture business, is hands-on in the spa venture, supervising the daily operations. He believes he is putting to good use his business administration degree from the University of Santo Tomas.

"We're just new and we want to hear comments and suggestions of customers," says the 28-year-old owner. "We want them to be satisfied so they will return. I believe that will make us better."

Like Kotex, his friends have their own individual businesses. Arthur is into paper and packing equipment, Go owns Rufo's Restaurant, Ralph is into the junk food business, and Ong is into brokerage.

Male-dominated

The owner says 70 percent of their clients are male and majority of the clients are businessmen and housewives.

"A study in the other branches showed there were really more men who went to the spa," Kotex says. "People are now more aware of the spa and its many services. Before, there was a negative perception of going to the spa because it's not sanitary. But now, the spas around are very clean. That's one of the many things we can boast of at Excelsior."

Regal Films matriarch, "Mother" Lily Montevede, is a regular client. She goes to Excelsior for her regular massage. Singer and stage actor Calvin Millado, a good friend of Kotex, also avails of Excelsior's services.

The spa has two waiting rooms—for men and women—where clients can watch TV, read magazines or even take a nap while waiting for their turn.

Separate massage, showers, sauna and steam rooms for men and women have also been set up. The men have two massage rooms with half a dozen beds, while the women's massage room has four beds.

Couples or friends can have a single room with two separate beds for only P1,100.

Excelsior has other branches on Shaw Boulevard, Mandaluyong City; Roces Avenue and Del Monte in QC, Robinsons Galleria and in Dagupan, Pangasinan.

At Excelsior, Kotex says the client will be pampered from head to toe. Services include Swedish massage for muscle toning, Shiatsu, reflexology, foot therapy, aromatherapy, lymphatic drainage massage therapy and herbal soap body scrub. A massage costs as low as P450.

Excelsior Spa has 10 therapists, three locker attendants and a receptionist. Millado says he is willing to substitute as a receptionist, too, on days when he visits the spa for massage or foot scrub.

Excelsior Spa is on the 2/F Mezzanine Fox Square, Connecticut Street, East Greenhills, San Juan. Call 744-6340 or 721-2147.

> People's perception that a spa is unsanitary has changed and they now go for its many services

Healing power of traditional Chinese medicine

TRADITIONAL Chinese medicine (TCM) is holistic healing through the use of acupuncture, herbs and massage, which bring back the body's energy (*chi*). This ancient field of medicine has its first written record dating back to the 3rd century BC.

The practice of TCM has cured many people for the last millennia of many old and new diseases. Recent documented cases of TCM's benefits include that of Chinese newscaster Tanya Liu, who has regained almost full consciousness after being declared brain-dead resulting from a train crash, and of Datin Seri Endon, wife of Malaysian Deputy Prime Minister Abdullad Ahmad Badawi, who professes that TCM has helped her in her battle against breast cancer.

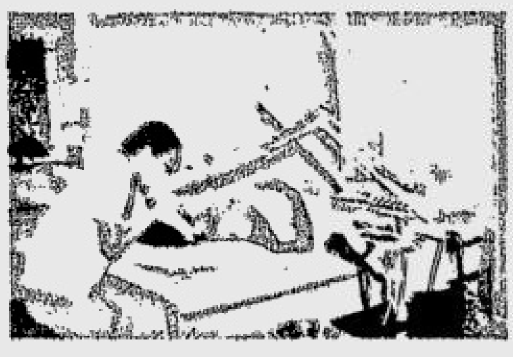
Among the many ailments that can be cured by TCM are neck, back and spinal problems, pain in the joints, muscles and bones, diseases of vital organs (heart, kidney, liver), treatments for hormone-related ailments (including natural alternative to hormone-replacement therapy), obesity and weight management, skin and facial problems, substance addiction, and post-stroke rehabilitation. TCM also aids in the parallel treatment of diabetes, hypertension, cancer and overall maintenance of general health and longevity.

Although TCM is a daily way of life in China, it requires a certain level of understanding to reach out to other cultures. With the exchange of technologies as a result of globalization, TCM is gearing to be a supreme holistic and scientific alternative healing.

Here in the Philippines, Chi Legacy Health and Wellness Centre is one such venue specializing in all facets of TCM. It adheres to Singapore's legal and regulatory standards on professional accreditation and engagement of TCM professionals, training of support personnel, selection and administration of herbs for medical treatments and adoption of procedures that are in line with tested, approved and documented standards enforced in China and Singapore.

Chi Legacy Health and Wellness Centre is located on the G/F Lafayette 1, Eastwood, Libis, QC, and is open Tuesday-Sunday, 10 a.m.-8 p.m. Call 687-1032/0331 or (0917) 602-9220, or e-mail info@legacytcm.com.

Pamper yourself with natural skincare products



THEY say it's a tough world out there. For the woman who earns a living and keeps house, it is doubly tough. Deadlines, kids' homework, meetings and menu planning can result in a lot of stress even for the most efficient working mom.

No matter how hectic one's schedule is, experts say that every woman should find time to pamper herself and indulge in skin and body treatments that are designed not just to beautify but to relax and uplift one's spirits.

Recognizing this need, Radiance Facial and Body Care Center, located on the2/F Nisa Building, 50 Polaris St., Bel-Air, Makati City, offers quality natural products and therapeutic treatments that emphasize not just beauty but well-being for both men and women.

Radiance uses Dr. Lauranne skincare products from Italy. These contain the finest fruit extracts that have been tested and proven safe at the University of Pavia.

Easily the most popular treatment at Radiance is Cellupro, which reduces the waistline by 2-5 inches in four weeks through heat therapy. The skin is massaged with creams containing natural ingredients in order to stimulate blood circulation and eliminate toxins directly targeting localized fat deposits. Cellupro is an all-around body treatment because of its slimming, refining and moisturizing properties.

As an early Christmas treat, Radiance is offering up to 40-percent discount on packages. It's also giving free Foot Scrub Massage for any combination of services worth P800 and above. Gift vouchers are available. Call 895-3943.

Singapore
Special
02 Nov '02 - 15 Feb '03
Singapore
VISITOR KIT

Dining Implement
Chomp your way through irresistible menus with dining vouchers from China Jump and Maison de Fontaine at CHIJMES, Prima Taste @ One Fullerton and selected restaurants/pubs* at Boat Quay.

Night Vision Equipment
Be on the look-out for fascinating creatures, with admission vouchers to the Night Safari.

Precious Stones
Bribe your daughter, pamper your wife and even score points with your mother-in-law with Aspial and Lee Hwa Jewellery vouchers.

Free Singapore Visitor Kit worth ₱6,800.
(Perfect for those planning a break.)

Recce
Trek across sprawling grounds with good shoes and admission vouchers to the Singapore Zoo and Jurong BirdPark.

Meeting Point
Approach The Merlion from the air (use your Singapore Cable Car vouchers) or from the sea (use your bumboat vouchers from Singapore River Cruises & Leisure and Singapore Explorer).

The Singapore Visitor Kit
₱6,800 worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for each visitor. Singapore Visitor Kit offer valid for bookings and travel from now to 15 Dec 2002, while stocks last†.

Don't Miss!
- Chinatown Heritage Centre
- Images of Singapore and The Merlion on Sentosa
- Singapore Discovery Centre
- Tea at Raffles Hotel
- Gloria Jean's Tea-&-Tour at CHIJMES
- Shopping at Funan The IT Mall (Shopping vouchers for the first 100 early birds only)

† Terms and conditions apply.

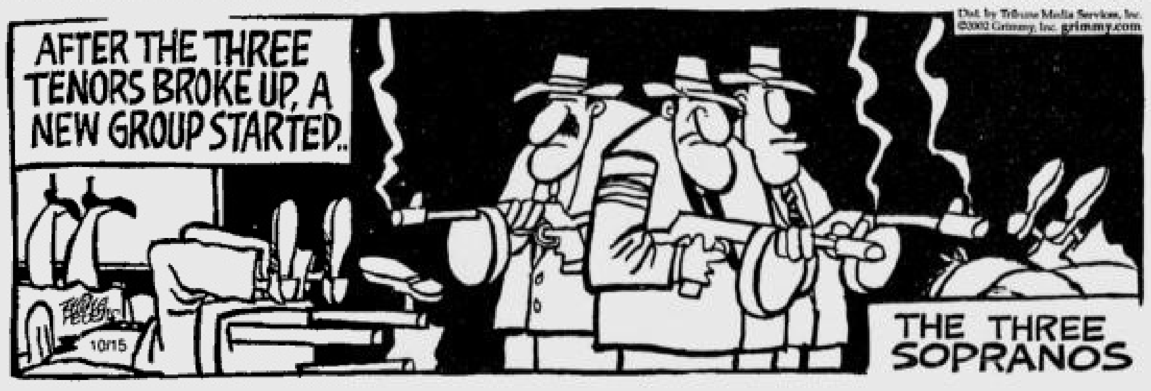
In Singapore, the weeks between 2 November 2002 and 15 February 2003 are the year's most colourful. It's a huge experience of events, lights, tastes and irresistible shopping. And the best part is, every visitor gets ₱6,800 (SGD240) worth of dining, shopping and sightseeing vouchers for the trip! Ask your travel agent for details.

Live it up! Singapore
www.visitsingapore.com

*The Penny Black, Harry's Bar, Curry House, Lago Seafood Restaurant, Harvest Seafood Restaurant, BQ Bar, Maharajah Boat Quay, Asian Wok Restaurant and Molly Malone's. For more information, please call Singapore Tourism Board, c/o Nancy Harel & Associates, Inc. Tel: 02-636-0258. Fax: 02-636-0259. Email: stbphils@pacific.net.ph

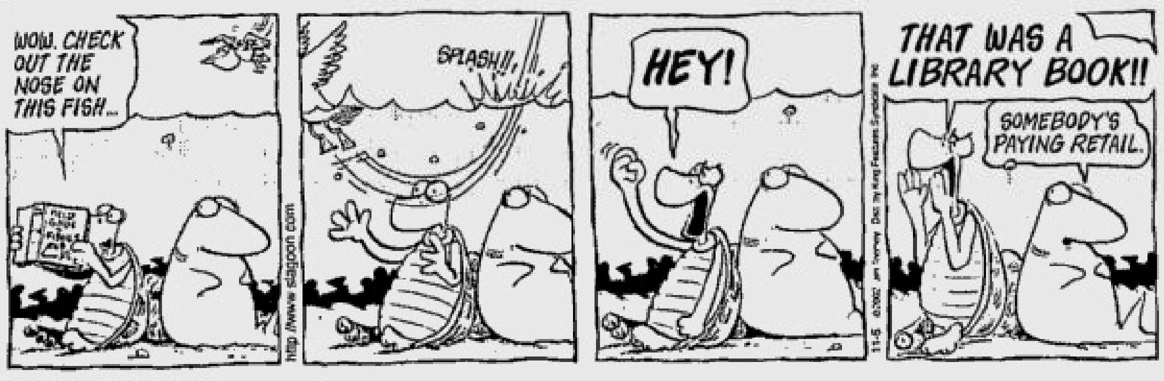
MOTHER GOOSE AND GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


AFTER THE THREE TENORS BROKE UP, A NEW GROUP STARTED..
THE THREE SOPRANOS
Dist. by Tribune Media Services, Inc. ©2002 Grimmy, Inc. grimmy.com
10/15

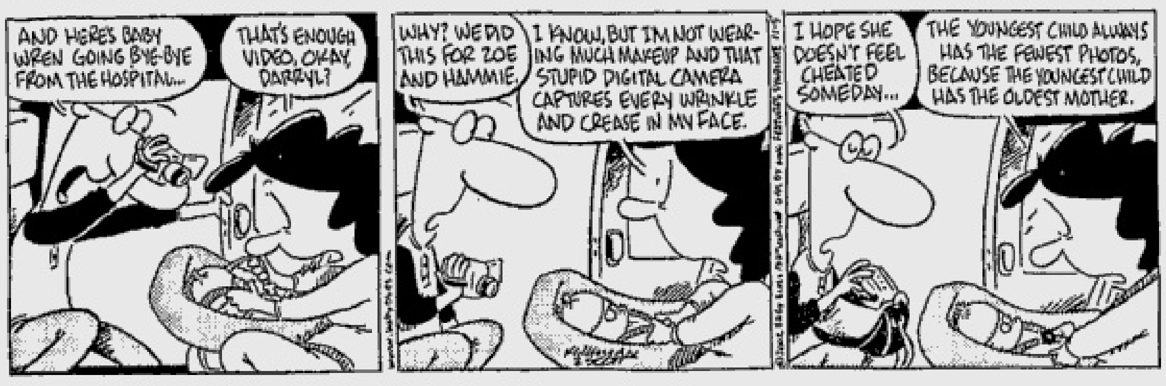
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WOW. CHECK OUT THE NOSE ON THIS FISH...
SPLASH!!
HEY!
THAT WAS A LIBRARY BOOK!!
SOMEBODY'S PAYING RETAIL.
http://www.slagoon.com

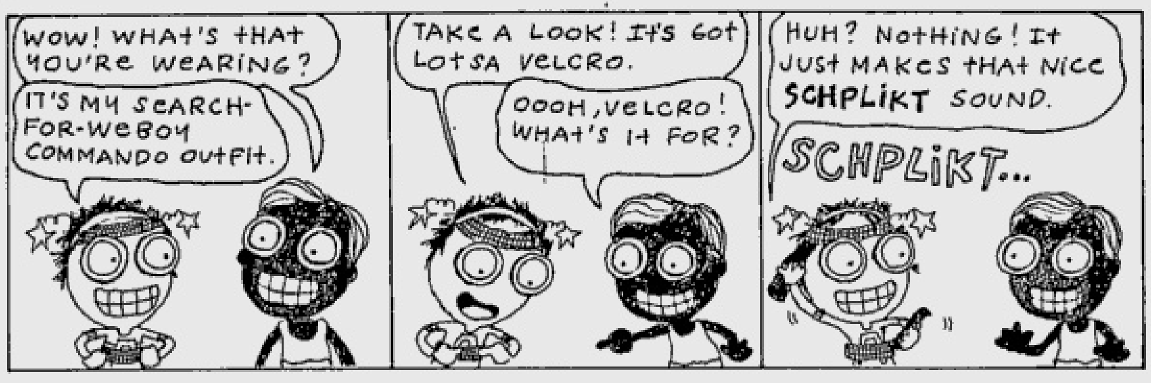
BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


AND HERE'S BABY WREN GOING BYE-BYE FROM THE HOSPITAL...
THAT'S ENOUGH VIDEO, OKAY, DARRYL?
WHY? WE DID THIS FOR ZOE AND HAMMIE.
I KNOW, BUT I'M NOT WEARING MUCH MAKEUP AND THAT STUPID DIGITAL CAMERA CAPTURES EVERY WRINKLE AND CREASE IN MY FACE.
I HOPE SHE DOESN'T FEEL CHEATED SOMEDAY...
THE YOUNGEST CHILD ALWAYS HAS THE FEWEST PHOTOS, BECAUSE THE YOUNGEST CHILD HAS THE OLDEST MOTHER.

ATOMO AND WEBOY

BYLYRA GARCELLANO


WOW! WHAT'S THAT YOU'RE WEARING?
IT'S MY SEARCH-FOR-WEBOY COMMANDO OUTFIT.
TAKE A LOOK! IT'S GOT LOTSA VELCRO.
OOOH, VELCRO! WHAT'S IT FOR?
HUH? NOTHING! IT JUST MAKES THAT NICE SCHPLIKT SOUND.
SCHPLIKT...

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Art Garfunkel, Tatum O'Neal, Elke Sommer, Sam Shepard
Happy Birthday: If you are patient you will prosper this year; however, if you jump into new ventures without much thought, you are likely to suffer. Figure out what works best for you and how you can satisfy your needs as well as those you care most about. You can make headway if you are smart,and diligent. Your numbers are 9, 15, 21, 28, 35, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): You may be emotional about legal matters. You should talk to someone you trust. Older individuals may have problems that they just can't handle without your help. Make yourself available.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Spend time with the ones you love. You may have an emotional problem on your hands if you have neglected your personal responsibilities. It's time to try to restore balance.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): If you put in a few extra hours at work, it won't go unnoticed. You can formulate contracts and look into financial investments, however, don't complete such ventures yet. This is the time to lay foundations.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): Spend time with children. You can help them with their projects and enjoy playing games with them once the work's complete. The youngsters will appreciate it and you will benefit from their company.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): You and your mate may have a major squabble if you have been flirtatious. Channel your efforts into making your lover feel desirable if you wish to continue your relationship.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): You can receive help achieving your goals if you can present your thoughts to the right people. Don't be shy. This is not a time to stay at home and hope that something will happen.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Don't buy expensive items from friends or acquaintances. Channel your thoughts into getting ahead at work. You can meet a potential mate or new friend through clients.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will find that your hard work has paid off. The household jobs you completed have allowed you to make plans for a day of entertaining. It's time to make up for all the little things you have neglected to do for yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You need a rest. You may also want to do some relaxing things with children or your mate. It's a good time to collect your thoughts, regroup and share with the ones you love.

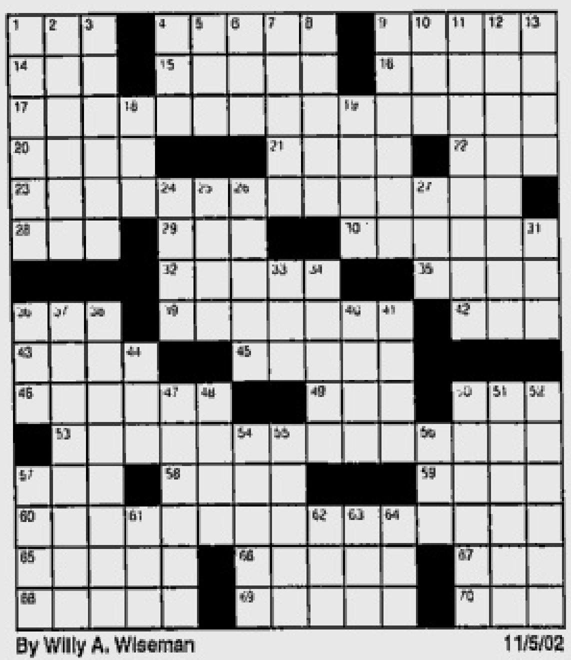
CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): This is not the time to lend money to a friend. Try to help out in other ways. Don't contribute too much to organizations just to impress others. Give of your time and talents.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): A family member may cause you grief today. Talk to them reasonably. There is more going on than you realize, so try to be supportive.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): Visit with friends or relatives. Do something especially nice for an older person who hasn't been feeling well. Creative pursuits will be admired, so show others what you are doing.

Birthday Baby: You will always listen to advice, but you may not be as willing to use it. You will be relentless in your approach to everything you pursue. You will always want to be in control of your life and your future.

DAILY CROSSWORD


1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10 11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21 22 23 24 25 26 27 28 29 30 31 32 33 34 35 36 37 38 39 40 41 42 43 44 45 46 47 48 49 50 51 52 53 54 55 56 57 58 59 60 61 62 63 64 65 66 67 68 69 70

By Willy A. Wiseman
New York, NY

11/5/02

ACROSS
1 Some college degs.
4 True up
9 Splinter groups
14 Class for U.S. immigrants
15 "Le __ du printemps"
16 Actor Flynn
17 Start of a Richard Nixon quote
20 Emphatic typeface: abbr.
21 Formal document
22 __ Miss
23 Part 2 of quote
28 180 degrees from WSW
29 Howdies
30 Cut molars
32 David of CNN
35 Highlander
36 Diminish
39 Part 3 of quote
42 6-pointers
43 "Performance" director Nicolas
45 Glowing coal
46 Sign an oath
49 Donkey
50 Hollywood studio's letters
53 Part 4 of quote
57 Pint drink
58 End of a buck?
59 Military grp.
60 End of quote
65 Financial exam
66 Moon of Jupiter
67 Adjective for Abner
68 Traverses
69 Blood constituent
70 Payment

DOWN
1 Come to pass
2 Choreographer Frederick
3 Orton play, "Entertaining Mr. __"
4 Enzyme: suff.
5 Post-grad pursuit
6 German I
7 Expanded
8 Stylish Indian leader?
9 Resolve
10 Before, poetically
11 Apparatus to maintain low temperature
12 Equipment building
13 Slide sideways
18 __-mo
19 "It __ Me Babe"
24 Bridge team
25 Drunkard
26 Point in question
27 Neurological test letters
31 Golfer Ernie
33 Resistance unit
34 Capital of Morocco
36 Important time
37 Hold in
38 D.C. suburb
40 Pianist John
41 Highland Gaelic
44 Golly!
47 Intelligence
48 Poi root
50 Me, __ and I
51 Net minder
52 Deaden
54 "The Highwayman" poet
55 Sherlock Holmes creator
56 Greek letters
57 Rehan and Huxtable
61 Soft metal
62 Sculling tool
63 S. Amer. nation
64 Flock leader

Monday's Puzzle Solved

A	G	R	A	■	M	O	S	S	■	S	W	E	D	E
B	R	E	R	■	A	M	E	N	■	A	I	L	E	D
A	I	D	E	■	R	E	D	O	■	G	N	A	W	S
S	P	I	N	N	I	N	G	W	H	E	E	L	■	■
E	S	P	A	N	A	■	E	Y	E	■	■	A	D	A
■	■	■	■	E	C	K	■	■	N	O	R	M	A	L
S	C	A	B	■	H	A	L	O	■	E	I	E	I	O
W	H	I	R	L	I	N	G	D	E	R	V	I	S	H
A	E	R	I	E	■	T	E	E	N	■	E	N	Y	A
P	E	W	T	E	R	■	■	A	D	E	■	■	■	■
S	R	O	■	■	H	A	I	■	A	N	E	M	I	C
■	■	R	E	V	O	L	V	I	N	G	D	O	O	R
P	E	T	R	I	■	L	A	N	G	■	S	I	T	E
E	T	H	I	C	■	O	N	C	E	■	E	R	A	T
P	A	Y	E	E	■	T	S	A	R	■	L	E	S	E

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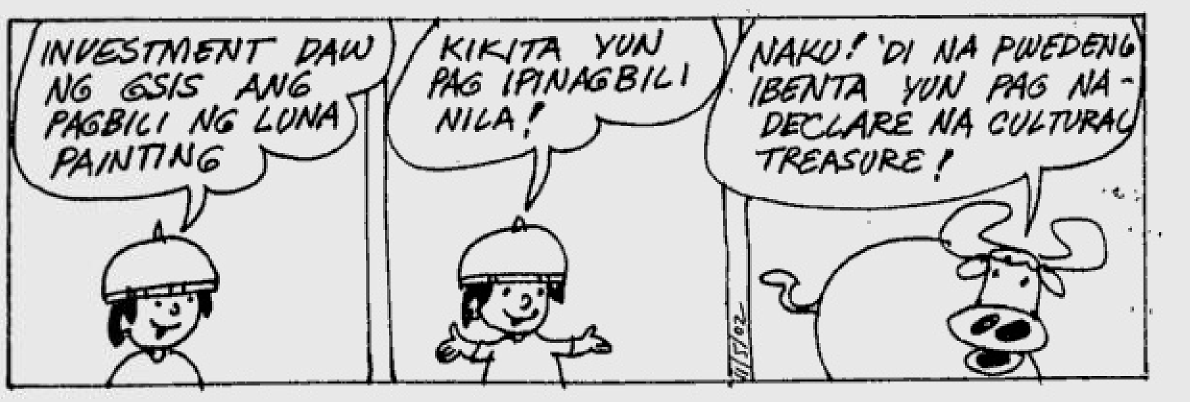
11/5/02

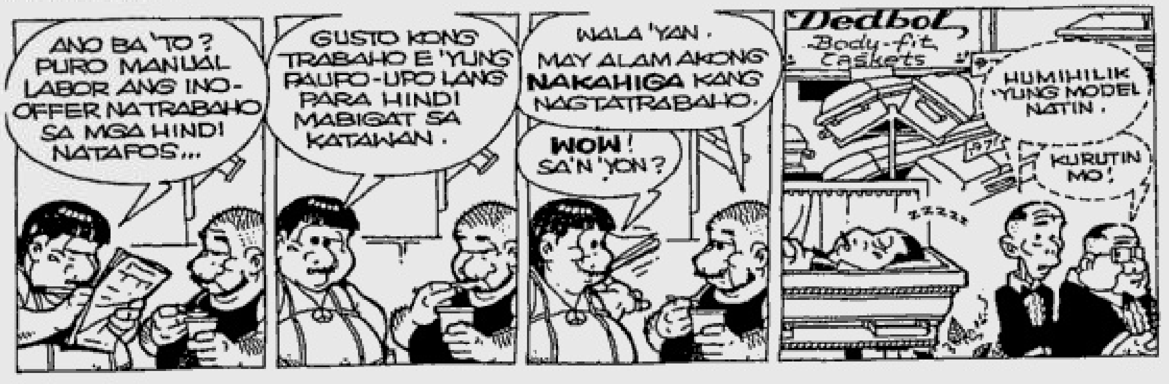
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


INVESTMENT DAW NG GSIS ANG PAGBILI NG LUNA PAINTING
KIKITA YUN PAG IPINAGBILI NILA!
NAKU! 'DI NA PWEDENG IBENTA YUN PAG NA-DECLARE NA CULTURAL TREASURE!

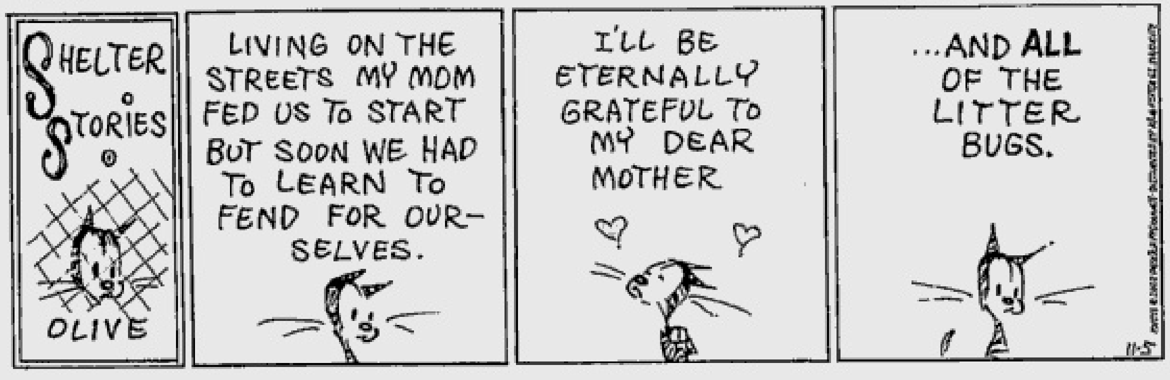
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


ANO BA 'TO? PURO MANUAL LABOR ANG INO-OFFER NA TRABAHO SA MGA HINDI NATAPOS...
GUSTO KONG TRABAHO E 'YUNG PAUPO-UPO LANG PARA HINDI MABIGAT SA KATAWAN.
WALA 'YAN. MAY ALAM AKONG NAKAHIGA KANG NAGTATRABAHO.
WOW! SA'N 'YON?
Dedbol Body-fit Caskets
HUMIHILIK 'YUNG MODEL NATIN.
KURUTIN MO!
ZZZZZ

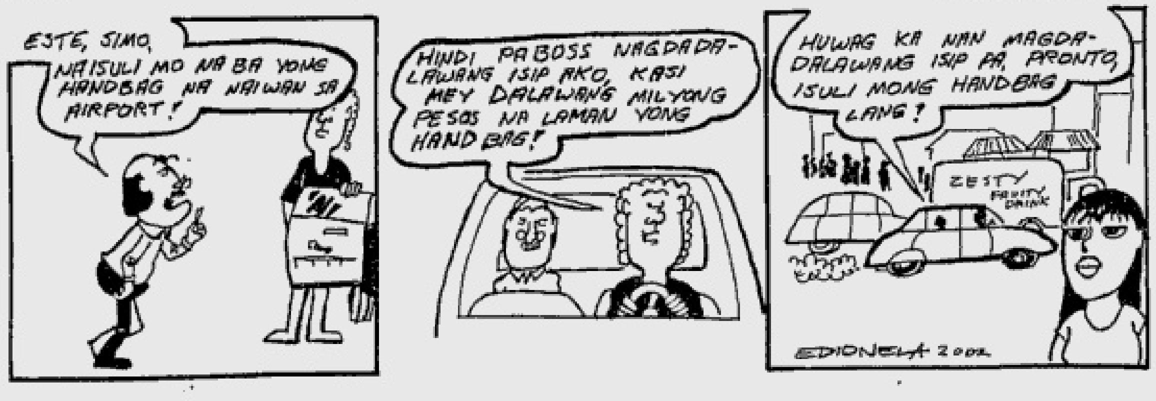
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


SHELTER STORIES
OLIVE
LIVING ON THE STREETS MY MOM FED US TO START BUT SOON WE HAD TO LEARN TO FEND FOR OURSELVES.
I'LL BE ETERNALLY GRATEFUL TO MY DEAR MOTHER
...AND ALL OF THE LITTER BUGS.
11-5

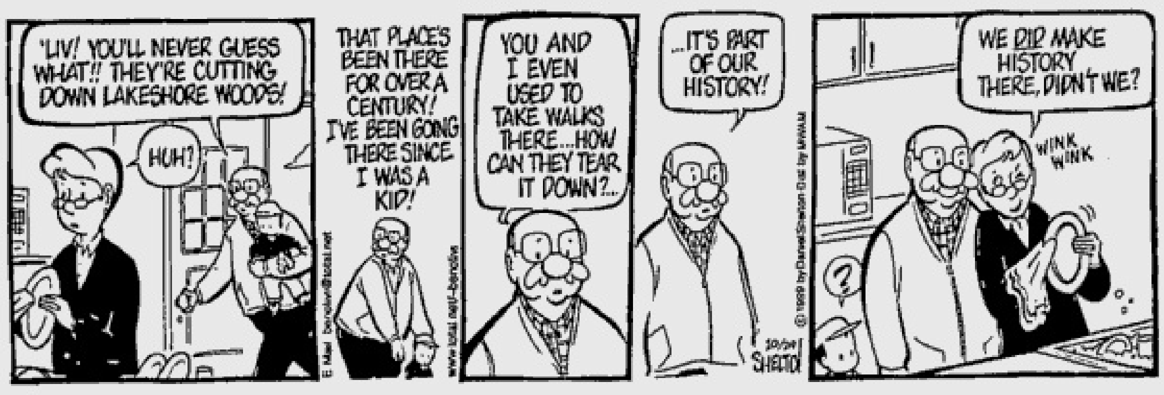
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


ESTE, SIMO, NAISULI MO NA BA YONG HANDBAG NA NAIWAN SA AIRPORT!
HINDI PA BOSS NAGDADALAWANG ISIP AKO, KASI MEY DALAWANG MILYONG PESOS NA LAMAN YONG HAND BAG!
HUWAG KA NAN MAGDADALAWANG ISIP PA, PRONTO, ISULI MONG HANDBAG LANG!
ZESTY FRUITY DRINK
EDIONELA 2002

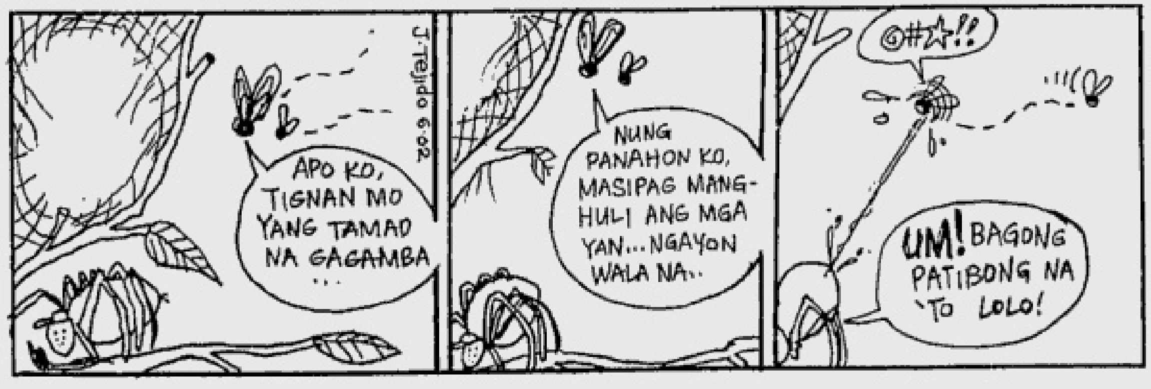
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


'LIV! YOU'LL NEVER GUESS WHAT!! THEY'RE CUTTING DOWN LAKESHORE WOODS!
HUH?
THAT PLACE'S BEEN THERE FOR OVER A CENTURY! I'VE BEEN GOING THERE SINCE I WAS A KID!
YOU AND I EVEN USED TO TAKE WALKS THERE...HOW CAN THEY TEAR IT DOWN?..
...IT'S PART OF OUR HISTORY!
WE DID MAKE HISTORY THERE, DIDN'T WE?
WINK WINK
SHELTON

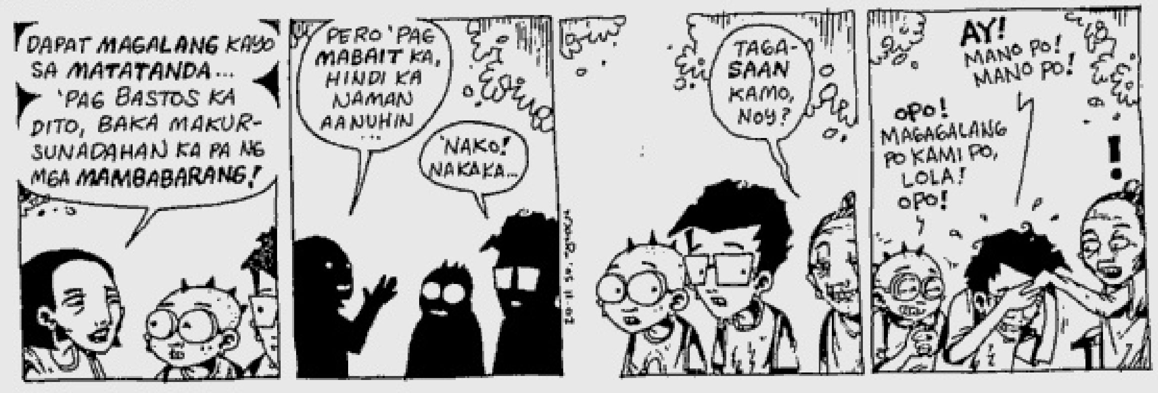
MIKROKOSMOS

BY JOMIKE TEJIDO


J. Tejido 6.02
APO KO, TIGNAN MO YANG TAMAD NA GAGAMBA...
NUNG PANAHON KO, MASIPAG MANGHULI ANG MGA YAN... NGAYON WALA NA..
@#☆!!
UM! BAGONG PATIBONG NA 'TO LOLO!

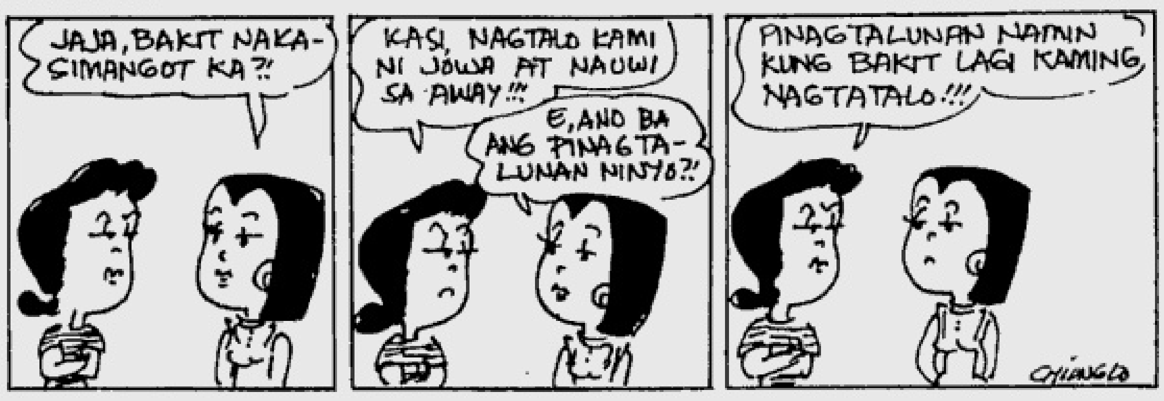
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


DAPAT MAGALANG KAYO SA MATATANDA... 'PAG BASTOS KA DITO, BAKA MAKURSUNADAHAN KA PA NG MGA MAMBABARANG!
PERO 'PAG MABAIT KA, HINDI KA NAMAN AANUHIN...
'NAKO! NAKAKA...
TAGA-SAAN KAMO, NOY?
AY! MANO PO! MANO PO!
OPO! MAGAGALANG PO KAMI PO, LOLA! OPO!

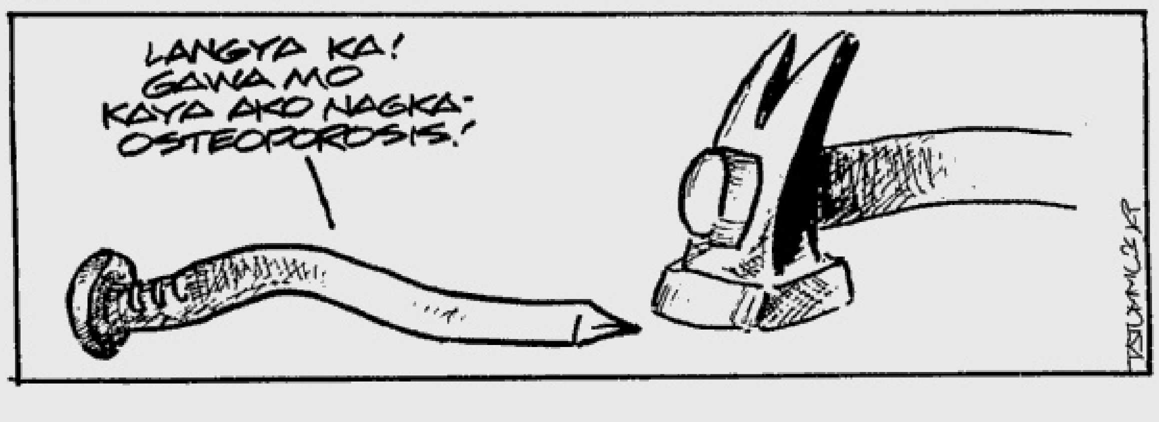
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


JAJA, BAKIT NAKA-SIMANGOT KA?!
KASI, NAGTALO KAMI NI JOWA AT NAUWI SA AWAY!!!
E, ANO BA ANG PINAGTALUNAN NINYO?!
PINAGTALUNAN NAMIN KUNG BAKIT LAGI KAMING NAGTATALO!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


LANGYA KA! GAWA MO KAYA AKO NAGKA-OSTEOPOROSIS!

Maintain a healthy heart the natural way

INSIDE OUT

Cory Quirino

FACT: The more you change your diet and lifestyle, the healthier your heart will become.

Myth: Drugs alone can make an ailing heart healthy.

Dean Ornish, M.D., Preventive Medicine Research Institute, author of "Program for Reversing Heart Disease," says that preventing heart disease is easier than curing it. Based on the landmark research published in the Journal of the American Medical Association, there is a choice to maintain a healthy heart the natural way.

There are three ways to heal your heart—physically, emotionally and spiritually. One can prevent and reverse heart disease through a lifestyle change.

According to studies, emotional stress, high fat-high sugar, high cholesterol diets, no exercise, smoking, stimulants (like cocaine, amphetamines, etc.) can cause heart disease.

Dr. Ornish calls the program for reversing heart disease "open heart." It has the following components: stress management, low fat, low cholesterol diet plan, a stop-smoking system and letting go of other addictions and moderate exercise.

The reversal diet is vegetarian because cholesterol is only found in animal products (meats, poultry, fish and dairy). "Only a diet free of animal fat, oil and cholesterol will significantly lower blood cholesterol levels."

Diet plan

- Vegetarian foods are cholesterol-free, rare exceptions are low saturated fatty foods like olives, nuts, seeds, coconut, cocoa/chocolate.
- No caffeine (coffee, tea, carbonated drinks) or stimulants of any kind.
- Limited intake of sugar, refined sugar (honey, fructose, corn syrup, apple juice concentrate, maple syrup).
- Alcohol of any kind not to be taken daily (Alcohol has a direct toxic effect on the liver and muscle of the heart.).

It is important to remember that all oils are 100 percent fat. Considered liquid fat, oils are either saturated fat, which raises cholesterol levels, and polyunsaturated and monounsaturated fats, which do not raise cholesterol but will not lower it either.

This means adding any oil to your food raises your cholesterol level.

Exercise

Yes! Exercise will make you live longer. Walking 30 minutes a day or doing similar activities one hour a day, three times a week is enough to make you healthy. Exercise increases the number of small blood vessels to your muscles, decreases body fat and increases bone density.

Emotional/spiritual well-being

If you believe that feelings have nothing to do with heart disease, think again. When a person is stressed, the body is flooded with adrenaline and cortisol, which cause muscle contraction, increased heart rate and breathing, digestive system shutdown and blood clotting.

Recommended remedies are relaxation therapies such as yoga, meditation, prayer time and tai-chi.

"Isolation can lead to illness whereas intimacy can lead to healing." Feelings of loneliness are a main cause of stress. When a person's self-esteem or self-worth is invested in someone or something outside ourselves, and when these do not live up to our expectations, the immediate effects are emptiness and pain. When we give a person the power to control how we should act and ultimately how we should live or die is emotional suicide. Generally, people who resort to drugs and excessive alcohol are suffering from isolation.

By contrast, intimacy leads to healing that most people need. Pleasant conversation with another person for at least five minutes a day is prescribed. More significantly, people who needed physical healing recovered faster if they are close to a higher force or God.

Those who want to prevent the onset of a heart ailment may find this formula too strict so diets may be limited to fish/seafood and chicken (minus the skin); no beef or pork.

Exercise and a relaxation regimen should be done regularly.

Heart-centering exercise

To calm the spirit and ease the heart: find a spot; sit comfortably; close your eyes; practice slow breathing; transfer your concentration from your thoughts to your feelings; focus on your heart; and let your burdens go.

For instant relief: In a pan or bowl of boiling water, throw in some fresh jasmine or sampaguita or drops of lavender or rose oil. Place a towel over your head. Keep face a foot away from the pan. Allow the vapors to cleanse you (but not to scald you). Splash face with chilled water after three minutes.

For your heart's sake, keep it open. A body without a healthy heart is useless. A heart without joy is as good as dead.

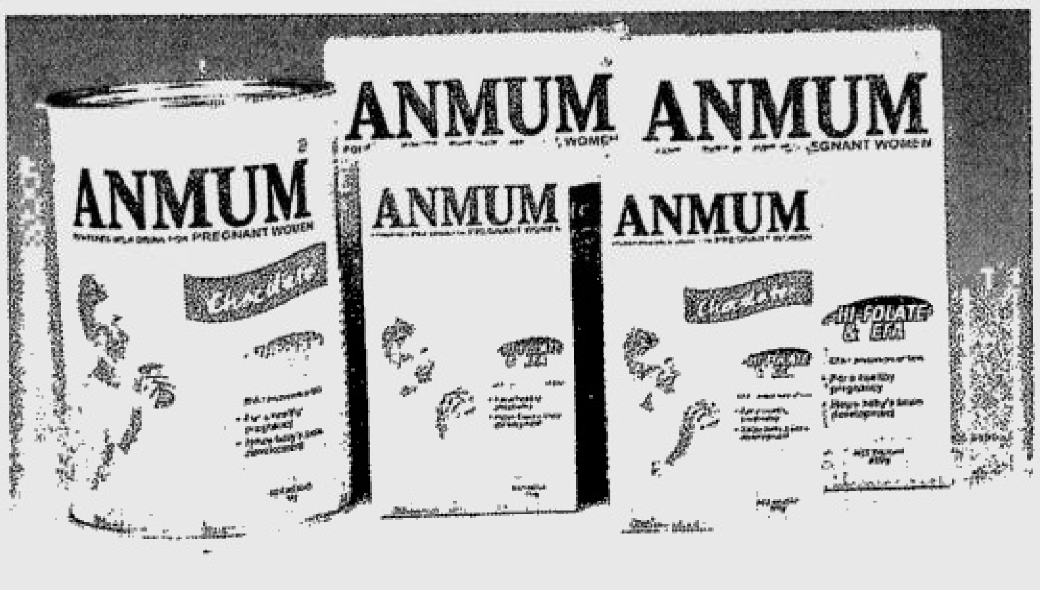
Love and light!

Total Wellness: Body, Mind and Spirit Workshop is now available to all interested companies/parties. Call 637-9653 (Te); and 892-6806 (Antonette).

TYPE OF FAT

	SATURATED	MONOUNSATURED	POLYUNSATURATED
Canola	.8	8.4	4.4
Safflower	1.3	1.7	10.0
Olive Oi	1.9	9.8	1.2
Corn	1.7	3.4	7.9
Sunflower	1.4	2.8	8.7
Soybean Oil	2.0	3.1	7.8
Peanut Oil	2.6	6.2	4.1
Coconut Oil	11.7	.8	.2
Beef Fat	7.1	6.0	.5
Chicken Fat	4.2	6.4	3.0
Pork/Lard	5.6	6.4	1.6

Powdered milk is formulated for pregnant women



WEEKLY DOSAGE

ONE of the most critical stages during an infant's development and growth is the prenatal period. This is the formative stage where proper nutrition is vital in order to fully develop their physical structure and faculties. As such, mothers-to-be should not compromise their nourishment to ensure healthy pregnancy. It's important to maintain a well-balanced diet, supplemented with nutritious beverages that will provide essential nutrients that their body and baby need. Especially formulated for pregnant women, ANMUM powdered milk is a nourishing drink that is high in folate, a fundamental nutrient that reduces the risk of neural tube defects and other brain complications.

NU SKIN Philippines offers Lifepak, a comprehensive multivitamin/mineral dietary supplement. Lifepak has five beneficial formulas: antioxidant, complete spectrum of phytonutrient, bone support, minerals and balanced B-vitamin. Specifically made to address all nutrient deficiencies, the supplement is also fortified with calcium, iron, magnesium, zinc, copper, selenium, manganese and other minerals that are not synthesized by the body. LifePak contains potent age-defying nutrients that promote cell protection and regeneration. It supports cardio vascular health and stabilizes bone metabolism, insulin and blood glucose metabolism as well as immune function. Call Nu Skin Hotline at 689-0333.

DEER Velvet, a natural Chinese formulation that helps in the management of arthritis and osteoporosis, is now available in the Philippines at Watsons (SM Megamall 2nd level Bridgeway and Bldg A UG, SM City Main Bldg, SM Centerpoint and The Podium) and selected Chinese drugstores (Hong Kong, Kim Sheng and Suy Hong). Deer Velvet contains calcium, magnesium and trace elements of other minerals, as well as chondroitin sulfate A and glucosamine sulfate. Another major component is Collagen II.

Stagland
DEER VELVET
Stagland
DEER VELVET
NO APPROVED

Giggles
Giggles
Giggles
Baby Wipes

GIGGLES Baby Wipes is alcohol-free and gently formulated to clean and moisturize baby's delicate skin. Approved with SGS Laboratory inspection, it's very ideal for baby's skin care. It is distributed by Gentro Phils., Inc. and is available at all leading department stores nationwide.

Epiderm-A Whitening Lotion and soap from the Rogemson Company Inc. can help achieve a fair, glowing complexion. The high-quality Epiderm-A Whitening has products to suit individual needs, lifestyles and preferences. Each product is specifically formulated to address specific skin conditioning needs while providing a youthful, fairer complexion. Epiderm-A is mild, non-sticky, and easily absorbed by the skin, protecting it against cruel, changeable weather. The variant with sunscreen shields the skin against damaging the sun's ultra-violet rays.

Epiderm-A
Epiderm-A
Epiderm-A
Epiderm-A

Disposable lenses may be better for eyes

DISPOSABLE contact lenses may be a healthier choice in this age when people are beginning to care more for their well-being.

Frequently replacing disposable contact lenses keeps the eyes healthier because newer, cleaner surface comes in contact with the eyes' tissues. Disposable lenses do not age and turn yellow, or get coated with deposits that can blur the vision or cause infection. And with improvements in technology, the lenses are cheaper.

"Disposable" refers to lenses that are replaced every two weeks or less. Some daily wear contact lenses require daily cleaning and disinfecting while some extended wear lenses can be worn overnight. The eye care practitioner advises the patient when the lenses should be replaced. Disposable lenses may be used 6-30 days.

"Frequent Replacement" refers to daily wear contact lenses that are replaced monthly or quarterly. Contact lenses are now available to meet a range of needs.

Here are tips for contact lens users to reduce risks:

- Write a reminder on when to replace old lenses.
- Link or associate the date of disposal with some other event, like pay day, for instance.
- Write down the date when you first used your new lenses so you do not forget.
- Make sure that you know as much as possible about your eyes. It's not enough to simply know how to insert and remove your lenses.

Take Charge Doc!

Nicky S. Montoya, M.D.

Looking to learn more about your benefits under your MEDICard coverage? Do you want to be clear on the procedures, which allow you to avail of MEDICard's services? Get your information straight from MEDICard's Medical Director, DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA.

FAQs (frequently asked questions)

I had to rush my son to the nearest clinic because of very high fever. He was not confined, but was instead given medications and asked to rest at home. The doctor who treated my son and the medical facility are not accredited. Is it possible for me to reimburse my expenses? Will it be based on the 80% rate of reimbursement for emergency treatments? The nearest accredited facility is in the next municipality, about 15 kilometers away.

Yes, you may reimburse your expenses for the doctor's professional fee and any medication given at his clinic to address the "life-threatening" condition of your son. It is true that our standard policy stipulates that only 80% of approved emergency services based on **MEDICard Relative Values (MRV)** will be reimbursed. Your situation however, is different in that no MEDICard facility was within your immediate area (municipality). In cases like these, the reimbursement will be based at 100% of the MRV. Please forward all required documents pertaining to your claim to us before the expiry of the 30-day grace period for filing.

Meet your MEDICard Team

The Training Officer for the Urology Section of St. Luke's Medical Center (SLMC) is MEDICard accredited specialist **Dr. Josefino C. Castillo.** Dr. Castillo has been MEDICard's partner in managing the healthcare needs of its members since 1996. He finished Medicine at the University of the Philippines and took his residency training for his specialization in Urology at UP-PGH. Doc Josefino is also noted for being in the Top 10 of the June 1983 Medical Board Examination. He is a member of the Philippine Urologic Association, the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Medical Association. He is married to Maria Cristina Castillo, a nurse by profession with whom he has two children. You may visit Dr. Castillo for your consultation needs at his clinic, Room 447 of SLMC from Mondays to Fridays, 9AM to 2 PM and on Saturdays from 9 AM to 12 noon.

Meet **Dr. Jose D. Bautista,** one of MEDICard's recently accredited specialists in Manila Doctors Hospital in U.N. Ave., Ermita, Manila. Doc Jose specializes in Orthopedics. He finished Medicine at the University of the Philippines and took his residency training for his specialization at UP-PGH. He is a Fellow of the Philippine College of Surgeons and the Philippine Orthopedic Association. He spends most of his free time with his wife Dr. Joy Bautista, also a MEDICard accredited specialist based in Protacio Hospital and their two children. For your consultation needs, visit Dr. Bautista at Room 711 from Mondays to Fridays, 4 to 6 PM and also on Wednesdays and Saturdays from 10 AM to 12 noon.

Dr. Melvin Audrey M. Mingoa is MEDICard's Medical Coordinator in Mingoa Medical Clinic, Romblon. This 1984 UP College of Medicine graduate specializes in Pediatrics and subspecializes in Neonatology where he received his training at UP-PGH. Doc Melvin has been in the practice of his medical career for more than 17 years and has been addressing the needs of MEDICard members for more than six years now. Dr. Mingoa is a member to various specialty organizations, to name a few the Philippine Medical Association, the Quezon City Medical Society and the Philippine Pediatric Society. He is married to special education (SPED) teacher, Thelma R. Mingoa. He has various interests which includes surfing the Internet, writing poetry, playing chess and track and field sports, gardening, poultry farming and to keep abreast with current developments and issues in his profession, reading. Visit Dr. Melvin Mingoa for all your medical needs at the Mingoa Medical Clinic, located at Rizal St., Brgy. IV, Romblon from Mondays to Saturdays, 7:30 AM to 7:30 in the evening.

We encourage all MEDICard members to voice out their concerns and issues at hand. BE HEARD AND BE READ. You can write DR. NICKY S. MONTOYA at 9/F Sagittarius Bldg. H.V. De la Costa St., Salcedo Village, Makati City or e-mail him at inquiry@medicardphils.com. **For feedback on availment of our services, e-mail us at** feedback@medicardphils.com.

For inquiries on individual or family membership, dial 840-2020 local 2017. For group or corporate membership, dial local 2049 and look for a membership consultant. For Cebu Sales Office call (032) 253-5031; For Davao Sales Office call (082) 224-6931/305-3386.

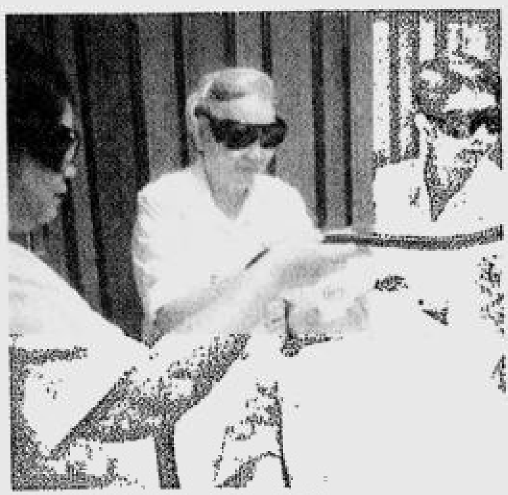
TEXT MEDICard for your queries: 0917-7518365 (Globe) or 0919-2476240 (Smart). Please don't forget to include your complete name and landline number where MEDICard could reach you. Log on to www.medicardphils.com.

MEDICard is the first and only HMO in the Philippines and the whole Asian region to be ISO 9002 certified.

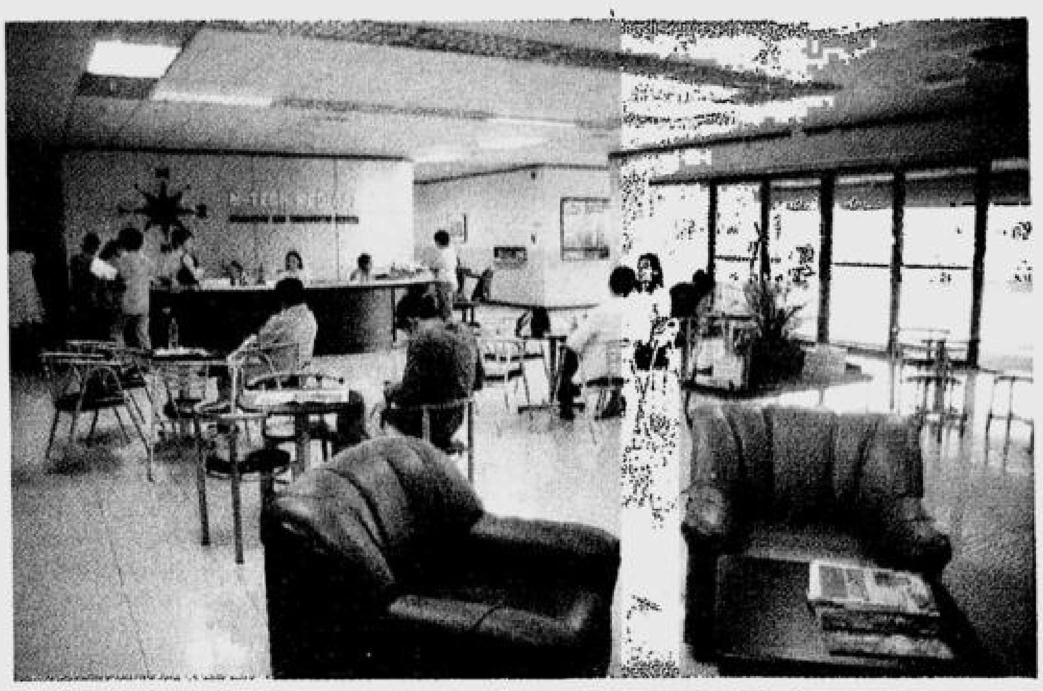
ISO 9002

Clinics' commitment to healthcare more than skin deep

DR. Angelita Reyes


THE ATREYES Center addresses every need and disease of the skin.

PHOTOS BY ROMY HOMILLADA


THE M-TECH Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Center in Makati

By Cathy Babao Guballa

SHE has been in the business of keeping women's skin beautiful for the last 43 years. Dr. Angelita Trinidad Reyes is all of 70 and she has a grace and gentle aura about her that keep her ageless. She is also very sprightly and walks for an hour each day. "I have had a happy home life," she says when asked what keeps her young.

The soft-spoken Reyes is chair and president of the ATReyes Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery Clinic in Makati. After graduation from the University of the Philippines in 1956, she went to the University of Pennsylvania for further training and post-graduate studies in dermatology. Upon her return to the Philippines in 1959 she established her clinic in Makati. Today it is located at the Medical Plaza Building in Makati.

Dr. Angelita Reyes' goal is to elevate the standards of healthcare delivery in the Philippines

There is nothing flashy about this skin clinic. Reyes, one of the pioneers in her field, is very low-key. "In the late 1950s the clinic specialized in what was called facial maintenance," she explains. The clinic has since evolved to respond to the demands of the times.

"I would like to elevate the standards of healthcare delivery in the Philippines before I go," she says. This she hopes to achieve through her clinic and the M-Tech Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Center on Buendia Avenue where she is also the chair. Both clinics are examples of what Reyes aspires to achieve in her lifetime—a high standard of healthcare delivery for all Filipinos.

Tasteful and high-tech

The ATReyes Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery is a quiet, no-fuss, tastefully decorated clinic with an efficient staff and high-tech equipment. The color scheme is predominantly white and the walls are decorated with prints from the Metropolitan Museum of New York.

The clinic has the most number of laser machines in the country, addressing practically every need and disease of the skin. There is a QSR-IPL laser for skin rejuvenation, a Pulsed Diode for hair removal, the Versa Pulse Laser machine, the world's most advanced and versatile, used to treat a wide range of vascular skin lesions. The state-of-the-art laser system has multiple capabilities. The clinic also has the CO2 Laser Silktouch to treat epidermal lesions. It is also used for skin resurfacing and acne scars.

In addition to the laser machines, the clinic offers services for acne control, treatment of stretch marks, keloid regression, mole removal, allergy detection using electronic scanning, among others.

The M-Tech Medical Diagnostic and Therapeutic Center, on the other hand, has state-of-the-art medical and diagnostic equipment. Although facilities are world class, services are affordable. "We patterned the clinic after US models," Reyes says as we tour the premises, which are truly first-rate and cleaner than many major private medical facilities in Manila.

M-Tech has 140 medical doctors and 40 paramedical personnel trained to handle even critical care needs of outpatient clients. The clinic maintains at all times a full complement of doctors with different specialties to minimize patient waiting time. The center, which occupies two floors, offers services in practically every medical discipline.

The center's Neurodevelopmental clinic has a specialized interdisciplinary approach to assessment and evaluation, case management and care of children with special needs.

A Cancer Care Clinic aims to provide specific medical care and, at the same time, provide the physical, mental and spiritual support needed by patients and their families in a holistic and integrated manner. "My dream is really to make this a center for women and children," Reyes says of M-Tech. "That will be my legacy long after I am gone."

ATReyes Center for Dermatology and Laser Surgery is at Suite 1001-1002, Medical Plaza Building, corner Amorsolo and De la Rosa Streets in Makati (tel. 819-1685/3398); M-Tech is on Buendia Avenue in Makati City (tel. 896-6751/56/58).

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